

Killers mistake tourists for soldiers

Australians shot in error, admits IRA

By IAN MURRAY in ROERMOND and DAVID YOUNG

DUTCH police were last night hunting armed IRA terrorists who gunned down two young London-based Australian lawyers, on holiday in the border town of Roermond after mistaking them for off-duty British servicemen.

The IRA admitted killing the two lawyers and said the active service unit involved "tragically mistook them for two British Army personnel". A statement issued in Dublin last night said that the organization "deeply regrets this tragedy".

A reward of 100,000 guilders (£33,000) was offered by the police for information about the hooded killers. Fears grew that British tourists were more at risk than ever since the Army swapped distinctive military number plates for ordinary British registrations after several terrorist attacks on the Continent, including one in the same town two years ago.

The gunmen, one armed with a semi-automatic weapon, escaped within minutes of the attack in spite of an immediate full scale alert. Their burnt-out Mazda car was found two hours later just across the Belgian border.

Mr Hubert Laumen, chief public prosecutor for the district, said: "Against murderers of this type, where a certain insanity is not far away, it is not very easy to defend yourself."

Mr Stephen Melrose, aged 24, from Brisbane, and Mr Nicholas Spanos, aged 28, of

Sydney, died in a hail of bullets as they posed for photographs with Mrs Lyndal Melrose and Mr Spanos's girlfriend, Miss Vicki Coss, in the town square.

The foursome, on a four-day holiday from London, had been eating in an Italian restaurant and parked their car outside. Without warning at least one black-hooded gunman opened fire and between 15 and 20 shots rang out. The two men died instantly.

Mr Melrose was hit as he stood outside fixing up his camera tripod and Mr Spanos died sitting in the back seat of the car. Neither of the women were hit. Covered in blood, they ran hysterically into a nearby cafe where they regained enough composure to telephone relatives in Australia with the news.

They will be flown back to London, where they have been living and working when the Dutch police have completed their questioning.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was "shocked and concerned" to hear of the killings. She has sent a personal note of condolence to her Australian counterpart, Mr Bob Hawke, and has asked for her "deepest sympathy" to be conveyed to the victims' families.

The killings are likely to increase pressure on the Government to make another change to the regulations covering car number plates used by British forces overseas. Vehicles belonging to servicemen used to be easily identifiable by white on black number plates. These were scrapped in August 1988 and replaced by ordinary UK versions to make them less visible targets.

Several MPs, however, have suggested that the cars of British servicemen and their families should be locally registered so that they would be less readily identified.

Since the number plate changeover the IRA has claimed responsibility for two other shootings and for bombings of cars. In both the shooting incidents on military personnel were among the victims. In one, at Unna, near Dortmund last September, the German wife of a sergeant was killed as she drove the family car. In another attack, near Wildenrath, an RAF corporal and his six-month-old daughter were murdered.

The changing of the licence plates, therefore, appears to have made it more difficult for the IRA to identify soldiers' cars with the result that they have killed innocent people.

Police are investigating a theory that the killers this time did not care whether they were shooting at soldiers — they were content to shoot at the people in a car carrying British plates to penalize the military for hiding behind the civilian registrations.

In London, Mr Archie Hamilton, Armed Forces Minister, said: "My deepest sympathy is with the families of those who have been killed in this despicable act upon defenceless people. This is typical of the IRA's total lack of regard for human life."

Mr Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, said the incident "gave the lie to the idea that a great deal of planning is put into these attacks on British service personnel". It indicates the despair of these people in trying to attack anything which seems remotely British and it should be a warning to tourists.

Mr Louis Steens, spokesman for the Dutch National Police Force, said: "There are certain similarities when we compare this with previous IRA attacks, particularly as far as the location is concerned."

Two years ago IRA gunmen killed an RAF serviceman and wounded another as they slept in their car. On both occasions the killers wore balaclava helmets and sprayed bullets from semi-automatic weapons before using a well-planned escape route.

The killers' getaway car was stolen in nearby Venlo on Saturday. It had Dutch registration plates. Two hours after the attack it was found burning 40 miles away across the border in Belgium on military ground near Leopoldsburg. "You can reach the border of both West Germany and Belgium within 10 minutes of here," Mr Steens said.

Dutch police have set up a special team of 45 expert investigators for the inquiry and called for help from the West German Federal Criminal Office.

Mr Donald Grimes, the Australian Ambassador, visited the scene of the shooting and said that the killers must have assumed that the Australians were off-duty soldiers because their car had British registration plates. Mr Brian Burke, Australia's Ambassador to Dublin, expressed "shock, horror and revulsion" at the attack.

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Car plate risks, page 3
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IRA victim: Mr Stephen Melrose and his wife Lyndal on their wedding day last year



Journey's end: The crew of Maiden celebrate in a spray of champagne at Southampton

Dry spell churns up dust devils

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SUNNY Bank holiday yesterday brought "dust devils" to Surbiton, two thousand hippies to Loughston Common near Bristol, and no relief to the worsening drought which threatens a repetition of 1976's hosepipe bans, bricks in lavatory cisterns and standpipes in the streets.

The warm temperature — 21°C (70°F) in many areas — caused a plethora of "dust devils", mini-tornadoes created by differential temperatures as air heats up over patches of bare ground. In Surbiton one "dust devil" eight feet across gathered sufficient force to pick up a gardener's bucket and tip it over.

A solitary thunderstorm over the early warning station at Fyfield, North Yorkshire, did not preclude a general end to the dry spell. Although there was some rain in Ireland yesterday afternoon, and there is a possibility of some showers as cloud spreads from the North-west today, there is still no immediate prospect of widespread or significant rainfall.

Continued on page 22, col 3

Maiden home to defy critics

By ALAN HAMILTON

WITH carnations strewn their deck, tears in their eyes, and little but popcorn left in the larder, Miss Tracy Edwards and the first all-woman crew to race around the world crossed the Southampton finishing line at 10.59am yesterday to an emotional homecoming.

The tears were of relief, and of triumph at disproving all those, including 300 British firms which refused sponsorship, who said it could not be done. But the final week of frustration, slowed by headwinds and the lightest of airs, told in the tired, drawn faces of the crew.

Hundreds of small boats and tens of thousands of spectators lining the quayside cheered, waved and applauded as their yacht Maiden, her white spinnaker billowing and her crew dressed for the occasion in white T-shirts and pink shorts, crossed the line to finish second overall in her class in the Whitbread Round the World Race after 35,000 miles and 167 days at sea.

Down in the southern ocean, Maiden, a boat suited to strong winds, had come first in her class in the two toughest

legs of the race, from Uruguay to Fremantle and Fremantle to Auckland. But the final leg from Florida to the Solent, which took 22 days, 17 hours and 59 minutes, became as much a test of endurance and patience as seamanship.

Her sails down and the tension over, Maiden motored from the finish to her berth in the adjoining yacht marina before an enormous crowd. The national anthem was played, spectators chanted "Tracy", and banners waved. One read: "Welcome home from the King and Queen", which proved to be Miss Edwards's local pub in Hamble. Another, more in jest than hope, said: "Another lap of honour, please."

Later at a press conference, Miss Edwards said the crew had got on well. What, she was asked, did they talk about? She laughed. "You'd be surprised if I told you. We only talked about men for 99 per cent of the time." Did they miss having men on board? Miss Edwards looked surprised. "Of course," she laughed again.

Leading article, page 13
Steinlager sale, page 37

'Desperate' Gorbachov attempt to stop Yeltsin

From RICHARD OWEN in MOSCOW

THE continuing efforts by President Gorbachov to block the rise of Mr Boris Yeltsin took an almost desperate turn yesterday when Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, was renominated as the official candidate of the Communist Party apparatus for the republic's presidency in opposition to the maverick politician. The third and possibly decisive round of voting takes place today.

Mr Vlasov was Mr Gorbachov's original choice to stand against Mr Yeltsin for the post, but was withdrawn just before the first round of voting last Friday. Deputies said this was because Mr Vlasov had made a "disastrous" performance in defending the Government's economic reform proposals, which are under fire from Mr Yeltsin as inept and badly thought-out. Planned price rises as part of a transition to market forces have caused panic buying.

Mr Yeltsin yesterday proposed a coalition government involving his Democratic Russian group and party conservatives, with the hardliners taking lesser posts under his presidency. But deputies said some hardliners feared such a coalition would mark "the beginning of the end" of their hold on power.

Pandemonium broke out in the Russian parliament when the chairman, under pressure from hardliners, ruled that neither Mr Yeltsin nor Mr Ivan Polozkov could stand again. Reformists stormed the

podium, and after 15 minutes of chaos the decision was reversed. Mr Yeltsin appealed for calm. In the first and second rounds of voting, both inconclusive, Mr Yeltsin was opposed by Mr Polozkov, a hardliner from Krasnodar on the Black Sea. But Mr Polozkov was beaten into second place, with Mr Yeltsin failing by only 28 votes on Saturday to gain the necessary 50 per cent of the 1,060 votes.

Sources said Mr Gorbachov was clearly hoping that before he left for the superpower summit in Washington, Mr Yeltsin would be decisively defeated. But pro-Yeltsin deputies said that Mr Gorbachov must be desperate to revive the Vlasov candidacy. Deputies said that the move was clearly premeditated because Pravda yesterday carried a front-page article by an alleged "ordinary voter" calling on Mr Vlasov to reconsider.

Mr Gorbachov fears the populist Mr Yeltsin would use the Russian Federation presidency as an ultra-reformist power base to challenge him. Last week, the President appeared at the Russian parliament to attack Mr Yeltsin for failing to use the words "Soviet" or "socialist", a move which may have backfired. He also charged Mr Yeltsin with wanting to take a "sovereign" Russia out of the Soviet Union. Mr Yeltsin yesterday denied that he would want an independent Russia to secede.

Apparatchiks monster, page 10

Armenia clashes raise toll to 22

From OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT in MOSCOW

THE death toll in Armenia rose yesterday to 22 as clashes continued between Armenians and Soviet Interior Ministry troops sent to the troubled republic to restore order. A further 14 Armenians and two Soviet soldiers died in confrontations yesterday.

Thousands of Armenians packed Theatre Square in the capital, Yerevan, in a demonstration originally called to mark the 1918-20 independence of Armenia. Nationalists erected barricades on roads leading to the centre of Yerevan in an attempt to prevent the troops, under the

command of General Yuri Shatalin, taking action against the demonstrators. Tass reported that the general had called for "resolute measures" to disarm the militants.

In the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, a local journalist said Soviet troops had occupied the square in Stepanakert, the regional capital, to prevent demonstrations.

Mr Vladimir Movsisyan, the Armenian Communist Party chief, designated today a day of national mourning.

Photograph, page 10

INSIDE Swindon win and wait

Swindon Town beat Sunderland 1-0 in the second division play-off final at Wembley yesterday but their victory may not guarantee their promotion.

Swindon are under investigation by the Football League into alleged illegal payments to players at the club, and if they are found guilty, they could be denied promotion and possibly relegated to the third division. Page 44

Poll tax call

The 30 Labour MPs who have backed the campaign for non-payment of the community charge, should be expelled from the party, the Conservatives' chairman, Mr Kenneth Baker, said yesterday. Page 2

Nursery plea

More thorough training for nursery school teachers is demanded in a report by the British Association for Early Childhood Education. Page 5

Junta concedes

Burma's military government yesterday conceded that the opposition had apparently won the country's first free election in 30 years. Page 8
Leading article, page 13

Monopoly worry

The European Commission is concerned over West German companies establishing monopolies by buying into East Germany deals which escape both West German merger control and, until reunification, are outside EC monopoly jurisdiction. Page 23

Recovery

Bedfordshire has been transformed into an area of low unemployment. A four-page Special Report outlines the county's industrial and political scene. Pages 29-32

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Duty-free red card for Albanian footballers

By ROBIN STACEY

THE Albanian national soccer team and its Under-21 side were quietly sent on their way out of Britain yesterday after the squad of 37 was arrested following an action-packed shopping spree at Heathrow airport.

According to one theory, the players, scarcely seasoned travellers, interpreted the "duty free" signs to indicate that goods in the Terminal Two shops were there for the taking as a goodwill gesture in recognition of their footballing prowess from soccer-mad Britons. A less charitable view propagated by Scotland Yard was that the two sides saw the opportunity of putting away a few half-chances and took it with both hands.

Whatever the truth, goods worth more than £2,000 came into the players' possession as the sides pe-

rused what was for them a mouth-watering display of luxurious Western merchandise at W.H. Smith and the Duty Free Shop. A senior airport official said: "When they got to the gateline there were watches everywhere. They were on the seats and on the floor."

The teams seemed to have adopted the same liberal attitude to shopping at the duty free shop in Rome. "There were also items in their possession which had come from the Rome shop," said the official.

After complaints from the two shops, the police moved in and apprehended the complete squad, manager and German coach driver included. Seven of those held, including the manager and coach, were immediately released.

Scotland Yard investigations into

the offences got off to a bad start and rapidly became bogged down in a search for an Albanian interpreter. Eventually the police realized they were never going to see a result and revised their tactics. "It was decided not to proceed with charges against the players on condition that they left the country at the first possible opportunity," Scotland Yard said last night. "The cost of bringing charges against them would have been prohibitive, and the stolen items were recovered."

The possibility that some of the thefts may have been caught on one of the shops' video surveillance systems — and that spectators could have studied a slow-motion action replay of any particularly exciting move — was not investigated.

In any event, the Yard decided to

call it a draw and the squad was allowed to continue its journey from Rome to Reykjavik. Albania are to play Iceland in a qualifying match for the 1992 European Championships tomorrow, and tonight the Under-21 side are competing for places in the Under-21 European championships and the Under-21 Olympic competition.

Yesterday afternoon the players, wearing an assortment of creased shirts, jeans and crumpled slacks, and looking none the better for their unscheduled fixture with the Metropolitan Police, were escorted past the Terminal One duty free shop on their way to catch an Icelandair flight to Reykjavik. A grey-suited official in the party refused to discuss the incident, remaining stony-faced and tight-lipped under questioning.

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Baker challenges Kinnock to expel anti-poll tax MPs

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MR KENNETH Baker challenged Mr Neil Kinnock last night to expel instantly from the Labour Party 30 of his MPs who have backed non-payment of the poll tax and to disown more than 20 Labour groups and individuals campaigning for a mass refusal to pay.

Mr Baker sought to exploit the Labour leader's embarrassment over the non-payment campaign by listing, in a letter, those with formal links to the party who have advocated non-payment.

That follows last week's decision by a special meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee to advise members to "take care" not to support the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation. The Tory party chairman said he welcomed the belated declaration that the federation is a front for the Militant Tendency.

He told Mr Kinnock: "You must immediately expel all federation and Militant members from the party you lead. You must take firm action against those who oppose payment of the community charge."

The letter, part of the Tory party's summer campaign against Labour, quotes Mr Kinnock as admitting it is "quite wrong to tell people not to pay". Mr Baker said: "If you actually believe your own rhetoric, you will tell the ooo-

payers that they are unwelcome in your party - and even less welcome to Parliament."

The Labour MPs who signed the Commons motion backing non-payment are: Ms Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington); Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West); Mr Harry Barnes (Derbyshire North East); Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield); Mr Ron Brown (Leith); Mr Ronald Campbell (Blyth Valley); Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West); Mr Bob Clay (Sunderland North); Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton); Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North); Mr Bob Cryer (Bradford South); Mr Dick Douglas (Dunfermline West); has now resigned the Labour Whip because of the poll tax to become an Independent Labour MP; Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen).

Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead); Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham); Miss Mildred Gordo (Bow and Poplar); Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton); Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East); Mr Eddie Loyden (Liverpool Garston); Mr Max Madden (Bradford West).

Ms Alice Mahon (Hull); Mr John McAllister (Dundee East); Mr Willie McKelvey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun); Mr Dave Nellist (Coventry South East); Mr Bob Parry

(Liverpool Riverside); Ms Dawo Primarolo (Bristol South); Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney and Shoreditch); Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover); Mr Pat Wall (Bradford North); and Mr Jimmy Wray (Glasgow Provan).

Mr Baker listed groups and individuals who have said publicly they would refuse to pay the poll tax, giving sources for his information.

Brighton Labour Party; Mr David Suttoo, a Bristol council candidate; a group of Calderdale Labour councillors; Coventry South East Labour Party; Mr John Dunn, a former Clay Cross surcharged councillor; Mr Keva Coombes, a Liverpool councillor; Miss Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow Maryhill; Harrietsham and Lenham branch; Miss Kath Harding, a Militant supporter; Hither Green Labour Party; Mr Steven Hughes MEP; Independent Labour Publications; Labour Party News; Leyton Labour Party; West Glamorgan councillor Mr Brian Ludlam; Miss Christine Mericar of Glasgow Shettleston constituency association; a group of Oxfordshire county councillors; Swansea Labour Women's Council; Ms Joan Twelves, Labour leader of Lambeth council; and Ms Cathy Wilson, secretary of Liverpool women's committee.



Three sheep come under the seasoned eye of Mr John Beavan, a judge, in blazing sun at the Surrey County Show yesterday. Britain's largest one-day agricultural event aims "to promote agriculture in all forms" by offering a wide range of show classes and farming demonstrations

1 in 3 ESTATE DRIVERS PREFER IT.

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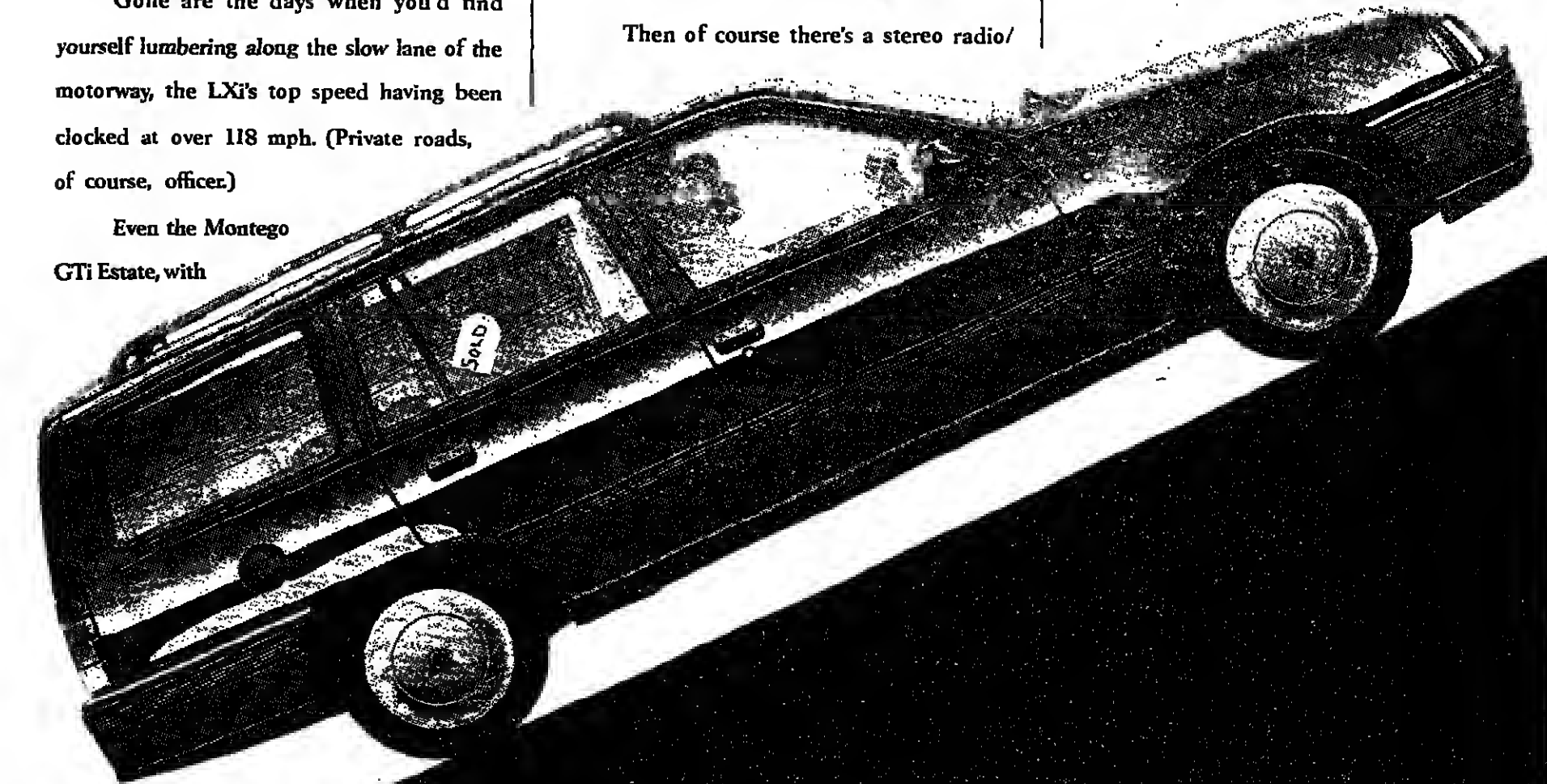
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Brooke in Dublin to brief Haughey over Ulster talks

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MR PETER Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, flew to Dublin last night to brief Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, on his efforts to promote inter-party talks on devolution to Northern Ireland.

The meeting was to be followed by a discussion over dinner with Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, at which Mr Brooke was expected to brief Mr Collins on his negotiations with Unionist leaders and indicate what he proposed to do next.

The meetings were being held in an atmosphere of increasing optimism after Mr Brooke's two successful sessions last week with Unionist and nationalist leaders, who appear to have given him the go-ahead to move to the next stage of bilateral exchange.

Although details of the formula devised by Mr Brooke have been kept secret, there is speculation that he has persuaded Unionist leaders that, in return for concessions on the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they will eventually discuss the future administration of Ulster directly with Dublin.

It is thought that Mr Brooke will first attempt to secure agreement on devolved government through inter-party talks to the province; then Dublin will be brought in for a direct input in discussions on, possibly, the suitability of the arrangement arrived at and implications for the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Big hurdles have still to be overcome to get to the stage of talks on devolution. It did not appear, however, that the Irish Government would attempt to stall the process last night. Officials have made it clear

that Mr Haughey is anxious to do whatever he can to facilitate Mr Brooke's efforts and is taking a strong personal interest in the process.

At the weekend, Mr John Hume, the SDLP leader, after meeting Mr Haughey, said that he believed Dublin wanted to see discussion in Northern Ireland. "I hope the encouraging signs we saw last week will develop to fruition, and do so very soon," he said.

Mr Brooke's talks last week involved Mr Hume and the Unionist leaders Mr James Moynihan and Mr Ian Paisley.

Telethon at £10.5m and rising

TELEVISION'S major charity appeal, the Telethon, had raised more than £10.5 million last night, shortly before the end of the 27 hour event.

Organizers were unable to say whether the final amount would exceed the £23 million raised in 1988, as much money is raised from sponsored events, where proceeds are collected later.

Money was coaxed out of the public in some strange ways. Mr Mark Farman, aged 20, spent the week in a coffin on top of the Stargazer pub in Evesham, living in silence and drinking only water.

All over Britain, people spent days in baths of cow dung, maggots and custard or sponsored dogs to sit still for a long time.

Man kills girlfriend and himself

A FORMER miner shot his girlfriend before killing himself, police said yesterday. Mr Gary Thomas, aged 48, was found dead when armed officers burst into the locked lounge of his house at the end of a seven-hour siege. A shotgun was by his side.

Armed police went to the house in Blackwood, Gwent, after Mrs Paula Williams, Mr Thomas's girlfriend, staggered into the street after being shot. Mrs Williams, aged 42, who has two teenage daughters, died later in hospital.

Police believe that the couple might have been arguing just before the incident. Police evacuated homes while they surrounded Mr Thomas's house.

A trained negotiator, using a loudhailer, tried repeatedly to persuade him to surrender. When there was no reply, armed police broke down the door.

Detective Superintendent David Hill said that no one else is being sought in connection with the deaths. A report is being prepared for the Gwent coroner. Officers were trying yesterday to contact one of Mrs Williams's daughters, who is on holiday.

Stockbroker shot

Mr Anthony Laiker, aged 29, a stockbroker, was recovering in hospital yesterday after being shot by two men when he answered the door of his home at Loughboon, Essex, on Sunday night. Police say there was no motive for the attack, which is being treated as attempted murder.

Mormon killed

Mr Gale Stanley Critchfield, aged 20, a Mormon missionary from Utah, has been stabbed to death in Dublin while walking home after house calls. Police said that his killer stopped him and demanded money. Mr Critchfield was one of 160 Mormon missionaries in Ireland.

Search resumes

The search for the remains of a boy feared to have been killed by a London paedophile ring will resume today, police confirmed yesterday. Detectives are digging up what is now the car park of a synagogue in Clapton, where, they believe, a boy of about 16 was buried more than four years ago.

By the Times overseas
Austria Sch 25; Belgium F 35; Canada \$2.75; Denmark Dkr 14.00; France F 10.00; Germany DM 3.80; Gibraltar Gp 1.00; Greece Dr 240; Holland Gld 1.60; Ireland Ir 1.50; Italy L 2,000; Japan Yen 145; Luxembourg Lfr 400; Morocco Dir 18.00; Norway Kr 4.60; Pakistan Rps 16; Portugal Esc 200; Spain Ptas 166.64; Sweden Skr 4.60; Switzerland Sfr 2.20; USA \$2.00.

The Roermond shootings

Call for international task force to hunt down terrorists

By DAVID YOUNG

WEST Germany's Federal Prosecutor yesterday called for the creation of a Europe-wide police task force to hunt down IRA terrorists. Herr Kurt Rehmann said he believed that the IRA had dispatched a new terrorist team to the Continent with orders to begin a fresh wave of attacks.

Herr Rehmann also said that the IRA posed the single greatest terrorist threat in West Germany. Since 1987 there had been 14 IRA attacks directed at British Army of the Rhine forces. "There appears to be no end in sight for these attacks," he said.

In recent years the IRA has increasingly mixed incompetence with terrorism, fueling public outrage and condemnation. The murder of the two

Australian tourists in The Netherlands, near the West German border, was the latest example of that ineptitude.

Last October, in West Germany, the IRA killed an RAF corporal's six-month-old daughter, Nivvuti Islania, and her father, Maheshkumar Islania, aged 34, were shot as they left a restaurant. An IRA statement, which expressed "profound regret" at the shooting of the child and said that the gunmen were unaware of her presence, was greeted with disbelief and revulsion.

Only a month earlier Mrs Heidi Hazell, aged 26, the German-born wife of a British soldier, was shot dead in her car in Dortmund, West Germany. The IRA did not apologize but admitted it thought she was "a member of the British Army garrison".

IRA "mistakes" involving the killing

of civilians were criticized by delegates at the annual conference of Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, in Dublin in February. A report to the conference linked the drop in Sinn Féin's electoral support to IRA "own-goals".

Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president and MP for West Belfast, did not specifically refer to IRA "mistakes" but his keynote speech did not contain its usual unqualified support for IRA actions. Mr Richard McAuley, a Sinn Féin member from Belfast, told the conference: "Don't underestimate the effect of operations which went wrong. The IRA must realize it damages the national liberation struggle."

The IRA also expressed regret after its most infamous "mistake" — the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing in November 1987 when 11 people were

killed. Pictures of that atrocity did much to turn world opinion against the terrorists. The IRA was similarly embarrassed by the 1983 Harrods murders when six people died after a bomb exploded outside the London store which was packed with Christmas shoppers. The Provisional IRA again expressed its regret, claiming the attack had not been authorized by the leadership.

Although the IRA's declared policy is to avoid civilian casualties, its attacks have claimed the lives of scores of ordinary people in the past 20 years. Enniskillen, however, marked the start of an unprecedented series of "mistakes". Among the reasons is thought to be poor intelligence and the recruitment of trigger-happy young activists.

The list of "mistakes" include:

- March 1988: Gillian Johnston, a Protestant aged 21, shot dead in Fermanagh. The IRA said its target had been her brother who, it claimed, belonged to the Ulster Defence Regiment.

- July 1988: Mr Robert Hanna, his wife Maureen and son David, aged seven, killed at Killeen on the south Armagh border by a bomb intended for a judge.

- August 1988: The IRA apologized after a booby-trap bomb, intended for security forces, killed Roman Catholics Mr Sean Dalton, aged 55, and Mrs Sheila Davis, aged 60, on the Creggan estate in Londonderry. Mr Gerry Curran, also a Roman Catholic, died later in hospital.

- November 1988: Mr Barney Lavery, aged 67, and his granddaughter Emma, aged 13, both Roman Catholics, were killed by a bomb while driving past the

- RUC station at Benburb, Co Tyrone.
- January 1989: A former RUC officer Mr Harold Keys, aged 29, shot 20 times in Co Donegal while visiting his Roman Catholic girlfriend. The IRA disbanded and disarmed the cross-border unit responsible for the killing of Mr Keys and Gillian Johnston because of the blunders.

- April 1989: Joanne Reilly, a 20-year-old Roman Catholic shop assistant, was killed and 34 injured when an IRA bomb exploded prematurely at a police station in Warrenpoint, Co Down.

- October 1989: Mr Henry Babbington, a 52-year-old Roman Catholic, mistakenly thought to have been a member of a paramilitary organization, was shot dead near Antrim Road, Belfast.

Leading article, page 13

'They were just young men having a good time'

From IAN MURRAY, ROERMOND, THE NETHERLANDS

IT WAS nearly the end of a short holiday break for the two young Australian couples. They had driven over to Amsterdam from Looosdoo to see a Van Gogh exhibition.

On the way back to Calais they decided to stop off for a late-night snack on Sunday evening in the picturesque centre of this quiet town.

According to Mr Donald Grimes, the Australian Ambassador to The Hague, "It was a moonlit night, a good night for taking photos."

Many of the restaurants fronting the square were closing but the floodlit town hall looked so attractive with its gilded crests on the facade, that they decided to photograph it.

Mr Stephen Melrose, aged 24, from Brisbane, got out and opened the rear door of their new two-tone grey Citroën CX. He took out a tripod and began to set it up for a time exposure.

Mr René Leenders was standing in the window of his restaurant, the Stap in Entrée. He had noticed the British-registered car, like so many driven by young servicemen who make the 20-minute journey from the British bases in West Germany for an evening out.

He turned back to watch his staff finish cleaning the restaurant when suddenly a noise erupted behind him. "It was a young man playing with fireworks," he said.

Across the square at the Burs Restaurant, Mr Paul Reynoud also heard the noise and rushed to the door. "I saw a man dressed in black shooting at a car. He had a hood on."

The man was shooting through the open hatchback into the back of the car and then walked to the side and shot through a rear window.

Then Mr Reynoud saw the getaway car revving up. The man in black sprayed bullets as he ran backwards to it. Four went through ground-floor windows and another two through the upper-floor windows of his restaurant but they hit no one.

Then he saw the gunman jump into the car, a dark Mazda 626 with Dutch licence plates. Inside were two other people also wearing balaclavas. The car sped away down a narrow street leading out of the square and disappeared.

Mr Leenders also saw the gunman running backwards to the getaway car and firing, then two women ran crying from the car to his restaurant. One was hysterical, he said. The other, much calmer, demanded that he ring her

mother in Australia and she then pleaded with her parents to come to Europe.

Mr Grimes, who had been to see the women in hospital, where they were sedated and severely shocked, was deeply angry. He stood staring at the red blood stains on the cobblestones. "They were completely innocent people," he said. "It was a case of mistaken identity."

The other man to die was Mr Nick Spanos, aged 28, from Sydney. Mr Melrose had been married to his wife, Lyndall, for only nine months. The other woman was Miss Vicki Coss, also from Sydney. Her relationship with Mr Spanos is not known.

The ambassador said he had done all he could to comfort the two women: "But what can you say?"

"They had no idea it was going to happen."

He was not prepared to advise other Australians to give up touring because of the danger. "If people don't travel because of things like this, the terrorists will have won," he said.

"How could these young people have been more careful? They were just having a good time. Clearly they were shot because they were thought to be British servicemen."

Australians were shocked at the deaths of two men, at the beginning of tourist season. Speculation that the two could have been involved in some way with the British Army was denied.

The Department of Defence in Canberra said: "We have not been alerted to any military connection, and if there was, I think we would have heard by now."

The main risks for tourists with British licence plates oo

No easy answers to risks of UK number plates

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE murder of the two Australian lawyers by terrorist gunmen has exposed an unfortunate side-effect of the Government's decision 18 months ago to scrap the special registration plates for servicemen in West Germany.

Ministers and the security authorities were aware that by replacing servicemen's distinctive number plates with ordinary UK registration plates, there was a risk that tourists travelling in British cars on the Continent might be mistaken for servicemen by IRA gunmen seeking victims.

But the risk was considered small when compared to the much greater danger faced by British military personnel driving around with easily identifiable registration plates.

The main risks for tourists with British licence plates oo

their cars are clearly in those areas frequented by off-duty servicemen. Yesterday, British military sources in Germany said there was no perfect solution to the number plate question.

Military personnel had been relieved when British Forces Germany plates were scrapped, after the murder of Warrant Officer Richard Heakin at Ostend, Belgium, in August 1988. He had been a target purely because of the registration of his car, which had the usual "B" for military personnel serving with the British Army of the Rhine. "By changing to ordinary British plates, we spread the risks," a military source said.

Another option was to use German plates. However, there were two obvious problems. "First of all, if they were

British cars, they would be right-hand drive, so that would have been a giveaway," one source said.

The second objection was that if British servicemen drove cars with German number plates back to their home towns, they would be more easily identifiable by IRA gunmen on the lookout in Britain for military targets. British military authorities in Germany have not ruled out any changes.

British sources said that the German authorities had been "extremely co-operative" in trying to find the best way to increase security for the 55,000 soldiers and 12,000 airmen, and their families, stationed in West Germany. Since the killing at Ostend, the military authorities have been satisfied that the switch to ordinary British plates has worked well for servicemen travelling to Channel ports.

With so many British tourists in the same parts, there is no obvious way for IRA gunmen to pick on a serviceman's car. However, in Dutch border towns visited by soldiers — as in the latest case involving the two Australians — and in other places that are not such obvious transit points for British tourists, the chances of a mistaken shooting are, theoretically, less.

One British military source said yesterday: "I don't suppose the IRA care one way or the other whether they shoot a serviceman or anyone else. The IRA admission yesterday that it carried out the killings followed the organization's normal practice of delaying, sometimes up to 48 hours, before making some form of 'apology' for attacking a non-military target."

British tourists shocked

BRITISH tourists in Amsterdam were shocked yesterday by the news of the murder of the two Australians, believed to have been mistaken for servicemen because of their car's British registration plates (Mark Fuller writes).

While many expressed defiance and called for the swift arrest and punishment of the perpetrators, many others were frightened.

Mr Gary O'Rourke, aged 18, and Mr Kilinch Mehmed, aged 22, both from Looosdoo, were about to drive back to

England yesterday in their British registration Ford Fiesta after a long weekend in Amsterdam.

Both with short haircuts, they could easily pass for young recruits. Mr Mehmed said: "It is frightening. Roermond is a long way away but it could happen anywhere. From now on we are going to be very careful." They asked nervously how far Roermond was from the Hoek of Holland ferry port.

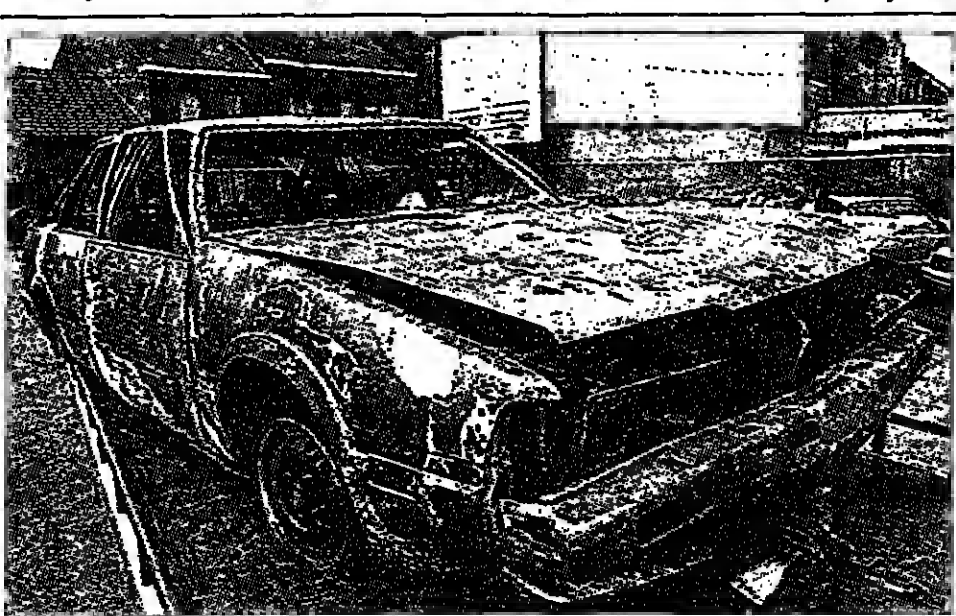
Mr Richard Thomas, aged 34, of Lowestoft, regularly

visits The Netherlands by car with his family. He said: "It means that any motorist with British number plates driving on the Continent is a possible IRA target. I think it is absurd that the military are not allowed to drive with local plates."

The Netherlands attracted 5.1 million tourists last year, of which 780,000 were British. Mr Frits Kamsteeg, of the National Tourist Association, said he did not expect any fundamental damage to tourism from the incident.



The square in Roermond yesterday seen through a restaurant window pierced during Sunday's shooting. The Australians' car, with its bonnet open, was still cordoned off



The burnt out wreck of the stolen Mazda used by the gunman and his accomplices. It was found two hours later in the Belgian town of Leopoldsburg, 40 miles away

Love of theatre bears fruit

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN whose first love was the theatre but who left a directing career because he could not earn enough to support his family, is using the fortune he has earned since to create a new playhouse.

Mr Henry Burke has launched an appeal for the £2 million needed to fit out an 18th century manor in his native Norwich and turn it into a 350-seat theatre to be called the Norwich Playhouse.

Mr Burke, who has shops in the East Midlands and East Angles, has gone into partnership with his wife, Jane, and Mr Roger Gawn, a Norfolk property developer, to buy the building, which was last used as a motor-cycle showroom. He hopes to open the new theatre in 1992.

"Arnold Wesker, who had connections with Norwich, has promised to write us a play, and we hope we can open the theatre with it," Mr Burke

said. As a Cambridge undergraduate, Mr Burke directed student productions, working with Daniel Massey and John Bird, and acting with Jonathan Miller in the Marlowe Society. Mr Massey and Dr Miller as well as Prunella Scales, Timothy West and Paul Eddington, have agreed to be patrons of the Norwich Playhouse.

After university, Mr Burke directed in repertory and became a designer in television and films. He went into the retail business 27 years ago.

"It was Timothy West who told me that I ought to go into directing as an amateur and keep up my active interest," said Mr Burke, who will be artistic director of the playhouse.

"We aim to provide a proper drama theatre with the city's first permanent professional company". Norwich's other theatres are the Theatre Royal, which caters for touring plays, opera, ballet

and pantomime, and the amateur Maddermarket. The playhouse will present a range of drama. There is also to be a link with the Arthur Miller Centre at the University of East Angles, and works by American writers such as Miller, David Mamet and Neil Simon will be produced at the playhouse.

Mr Burke hopes to get funding from the local authority and from Eastern Arts, the regional arts association. Already, however, £600,000 has been pledged from local sources, including £100,000 from an anonymous businessman.

"It may seem a foolhardy venture, but we carried out market research and local support for the idea was very strong," said Mr Burke, who has committed seven years to the project in which he will work without a salary. "I believe that Norwich needs a theatre of plays, and I am confident we can provide it."

New entrepreneurs embrace work ethic

THE entrepreneurs of the 1990s put business before family, aim to retire by 50 and attribute their success to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Academic qualifications are of not the slightest importance to them: the crucial skill is to be able to spot a business opening.

The results of a survey carried out by the accountancy firm Kiddsons Impey show that modern entrepreneurs are more adventurous, business-oriented and assertive than their predecessors 10 years ago. It also shows that more women than ever before are launching businesses.

The survey explodes the myth that wealthy parents give people a head start. Almost 95 per cent of new entrepreneurs raised capital through a bank loan.

Almost half of the new entrepreneurs, though content with their lives, are haunted by the fear of failure. Although 64 per cent of them are

married, 68 per cent would put business before family and only 30 per cent achieved a balance between home and work life.

Fifty five per cent of people launching a new business are aged between 30 and 40; 40 per cent are under 30; 63 per cent want to retire before 50 and 5 per cent before 40.

Almost 40 per cent are motivated by the prospect of financial reward, 29 per cent by the desire to be their own boss, and 28 per cent by the challenge.

Mrs Thatcher was credited with playing a significant part in the creation of a new generation of entrepreneurs: 73 per cent said she had encouraged their spirit of enterprise by lowering taxation and making success socially acceptable. Another key character was the tycoon Mr Richard Branson: 41 per cent said he was the person they wanted to emulate.

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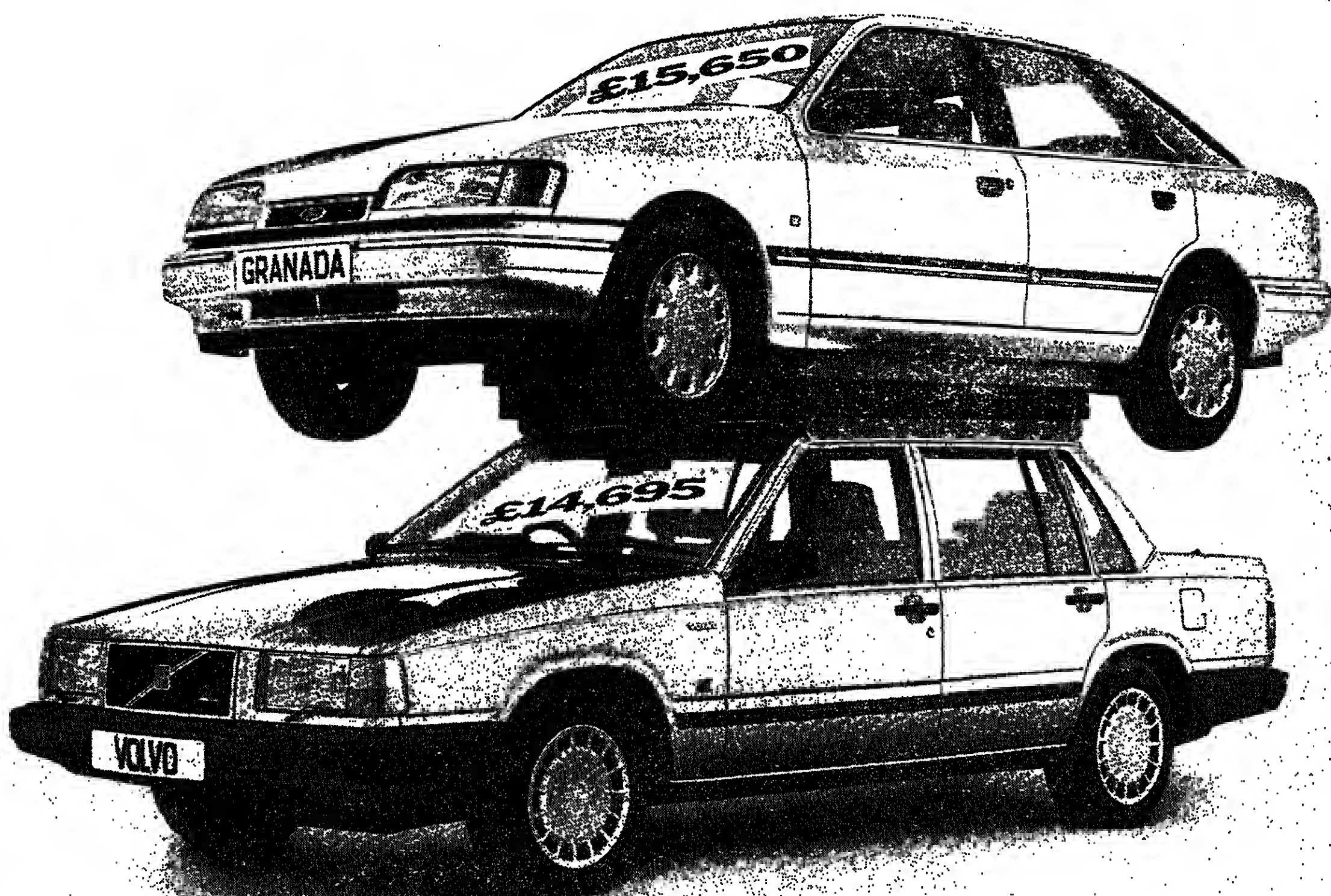
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Demand for more nursery teacher training

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE thorough training for specialist nursery school teachers and heads in England and Wales is demanded in a report to be published later this week.

A poll by the British Association for Early Childhood Education of 351 nursery schools teaching 32,000 children aged three to five, shows that two-thirds of staff had had some specialist training.

The association says, however, that all local authorities should offer re-training to teachers, particularly head-teachers who had received no initial nursery training and half of them had not been offered extra courses. The association recommends that all local authorities should make arrangements with their own colleges to provide regular re-training.

Heads were also concerned that they were asked to run schools, often larger than many primary schools, without any clerical assistance while they were also being used as formal and informal training grounds.

One head said: "I find my job continually frustrated by having to wear so many hats—I am considered by the local education authority to be a teaching head, with no secretarial help, a school clerk as well, a trainer/helper for numerous agencies, an educator of parents..."

Two million fewer books were bought by schools in Britain last year than in 1988, the Publishers Association said yesterday. Speaking in Torquay on the eve of the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers, Mr John Davies, director of the association's

Educational Publishers Council, said that the number of books bought by British state schools had fallen by 35 per cent over the past 10 years.

The cash value of books bought to September last year fell to £105.1 million compared with £109.1 million the previous year. The number of books sold fell to 30.6 million compared with 32.6 million.

Mr Davies said that without extra funding from the Government to provide an adequate number of new textbooks, schools would find it impossible to implement the National Curriculum as required under the 1988 Education Reform Act. He said that an extra £150 million was needed over five years to provide the necessary books.

Mr Davies said his council estimated that the recent report of the working party on modern languages would require £38.2 million to be spent on books and teaching materials.

The teachers' union NAS/UNITE blamed the Government's new Local Management of Schools for 200 teachers being made redundant in Nottinghamshire under the arrangements for local school governors and head teachers to run school finances instead of the local education authority.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister for Education, said on BBC radio yesterday that the LMS was not to blame for 200 teachers losing their jobs in Nottinghamshire because it was not being brought into the county until 1991. Mr Clive Teal, East Midlands spokesman for the union, corrected her and said she was totally wrong because the system had started in Nottinghamshire on April 1.

Eton looks back at 550 years of excellence

THE Queen goes to Eton today to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the school founded for 70 scholars by Henry VI in 1440. Others were welcome to send their children but they, like the majority of the 1,260 boys at the school today, were expected to pay their own expenses (David Tytler writes).

The boys known as the King's Scholars still have all or most of their fees paid; the rest pay £8,496 a year. They all wear the Victorian tailcoat and striped trousers, but are allowed to wear less formal dress in the town.

Eton can claim 19 Prime Ministers, including Walpole, Wellington, Gladstone and Macmillan. Modern day old boys include Lord Home of the Hirsel, Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone and Mr Douglas Hurd.

There were writers too, the most read perhaps being Ian Fleming, who was expelled. More respectably, the college can claim Henry Fielding, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Aldous Huxley, George Orwell and the economist Maynard Keynes. Other former pupils included Captain Oates, Beau Brummel and Charles Rolls—who met Royce in a Manchester hotel before going on to a build the car most Etonians aspire to—and the cricket commentators Brian Johnston and Henry Blofield.

Music for the celebrations will be provided by Humphrey Lyttelton, another old boy, whose father was a housemaster. His fellow Etonians Parry, who wrote *Jerusalem*, and Arne might not have approved of his jazz.

Lord Hailsham says he is looking forward most to the fireworks, which he is to watch with the Queen Mother. He says: "When I was there the fireworks were a highlight of the year, but then they were stopped because of bad behaviour."



An Eton boy in the shadow of a statue of the school's founder, Henry VI, in the quadrangle of Eton

Increase in heart surgery

The number of open heart operations carried out annually at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, is to double to 800 from next year.

At present, the number of such operations in the West Midlands is below the national average. The regional health authority is to spend £2 million on providing twin operating theatres, a six-bed intensive care unit and 34 ward beds. A new cardiac surgeon is also to be appointed. The hospital has a target of 1,000 open heart operations a year.

Search fails

Searchers failed yesterday to find a man and a woman feared drowned after falling from an inflatable dinghy on the River Ouse, at King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Police plea

Mr Albert Morby, chairman of Northamptonshire Police Authority, is calling on the Home Office to allow the county an extra 100 officers to combat a 22 per cent rise in reported crime.

Cell death

An inquiry was launched yesterday after a woman collapsed and died on Sunday in the cells at Weston-Super-Mare police station, Avon. It is understood she had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Peace moves

Negotiations are to take place between unions and management at Waterford Crystal, Waterford City, Irish Republic, breaking an eight-week deadlock. About 2,300 workers have been on strike over non-payment of bonuses.

Road rubble ruins nature reserve

By DAVID YOUNG

MR ROGER Freeman, the new Minister for Roads, is investigating why contractors building a road through his constituency have seriously damaged a protected nature reserve by dumping hundreds of tons of rubble and soil.

The site, on either side of the A1-M1 link road being built near Kettering, Northamptonshire, was given legal protection six years ago when a public inquiry into the route of the new road was held.

However, the Minister's department, which is investigating the incident, says

that it appears that the nature reserve was not marked on plans given to contractors.

Balfour Beatty, the main contractor on this section of the road, said there was no indication on any of the contract documents that the route passed a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Northamptonshire County Council is considering prosecuting the contractors. The council estimates that 30 to 40 per cent of the site, between the villages of Barton Seagrave and Pychley, may have been permanently damaged.

The council said that when the route was allowed to pass through the marshland SSSI, where rare insects have been found and wildflowers such as meadowweet and skullcap grow, a condition was that the area on either side would be protected.

Mr Adrian Colson, director of the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, said: "With a little more care this site need not have been destroyed." The trust and the Nature Conservancy Council are to meet Mr Freeman to discuss how the site can be restored.

Naseby's new battle, page 17



Mr Freeman: Investigating damage to nature reserve

Threat to Britain's flowers

By RUTH GLEDHILL

MANY species of British wild flowers are already extinct and a further 50 may be wiped out in individual counties as their habitat disappears in the next few years, according to a report by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation.

The report blames agricultural improvement, new building, afforestation, pollution, coastal work, poor land management and extraction of peat for gardeners.

Using information from 48 wildlife trusts, the report lists the demise of plants including the greater sundew in Cornwall, the yellow-wort in Cumbria, the corn cockle in Herefordshire and the fritillary in Leicestershire and Rutland.

The report, *Where Have all the Wild Flowers Gone?*, also notes the resurgence of the Victorian passion for collecting, which has contributed to the decline of some flowers.

Call for curbs on fish-farm areas

By KERRY GILL

THE Atlantic Salmon Trust has recommended that the east coast of Scotland should be declared an aquaculture free zone to minimize any adverse effects from interbreeding between farmed and wild salmon.

Research by the trust and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has shown that farmed and wild fish have spawned together. The research followed fish that had escaped from a farm in the north of Scotland. Some fish entered a river and spawned with wild species. Work is to continue to see if

egg samples hatch and to establish the survival pattern of the young fish.

At an international conference held in Norway recently by the Directorate for Nature Management and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, it was suggested that there should be aquaculture free zones close to salmon rivers. Native Atlantic salmon are outnumbered by cultured salmon and large numbers of farmed fish have entered salmon rivers. In some Norwegian rivers more than half the adult salmon came from farms.

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Slump in housing hinders project for fast conveyancing

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A NEW national conveyancing scheme launched with a £250,000 marketing budget by the Law Society has been hit by the property slump, according to solicitors around the country.

Despite enthusiasm among solicitors for the scheme, launched last month, under which house transfers are speeded up with new standardized procedures, the sluggish property market is preventing them from maximizing its potential.

A key feature of the scheme, known as Transaction, is that the vendor arranges and pays for the search. However, that is proving the trickiest part to promote because of the scarcity of linked house sales.

The scheme has been taken up by some 8,500 solicitors' offices in England and Wales, although in parts of the country the response is patchy.

Mr Tony Girling, a member of the Law Society Council, said: "There has been a generally very good response and we are now in the process of identifying firms that have not taken it up or that did not

realize they had to register with us to obtain all the new standard forms of contract and conditions of sale."

The slow property market, however, has had its effect, he said. The scheme did not lend itself so well to the one-off transaction — the first-time buyer from a housing developer — where there was no private vendor involved.

Mr Girling said: "There is a general recognition that there needs to be an upturn in the property market to see the whole system take off down the line of chains of house transfers." The take-up by solicitors had been patchy, he said, with a notably poor response in London.

Mr Robert Abbey, of the London practice Russell Jones and Walker, said: "We have hundreds of conveyancing files going through our office and we have hardly had one involving Transaction."

The idea was a good one, but it was proving difficult to persuade either clients or solicitors of its benefits.

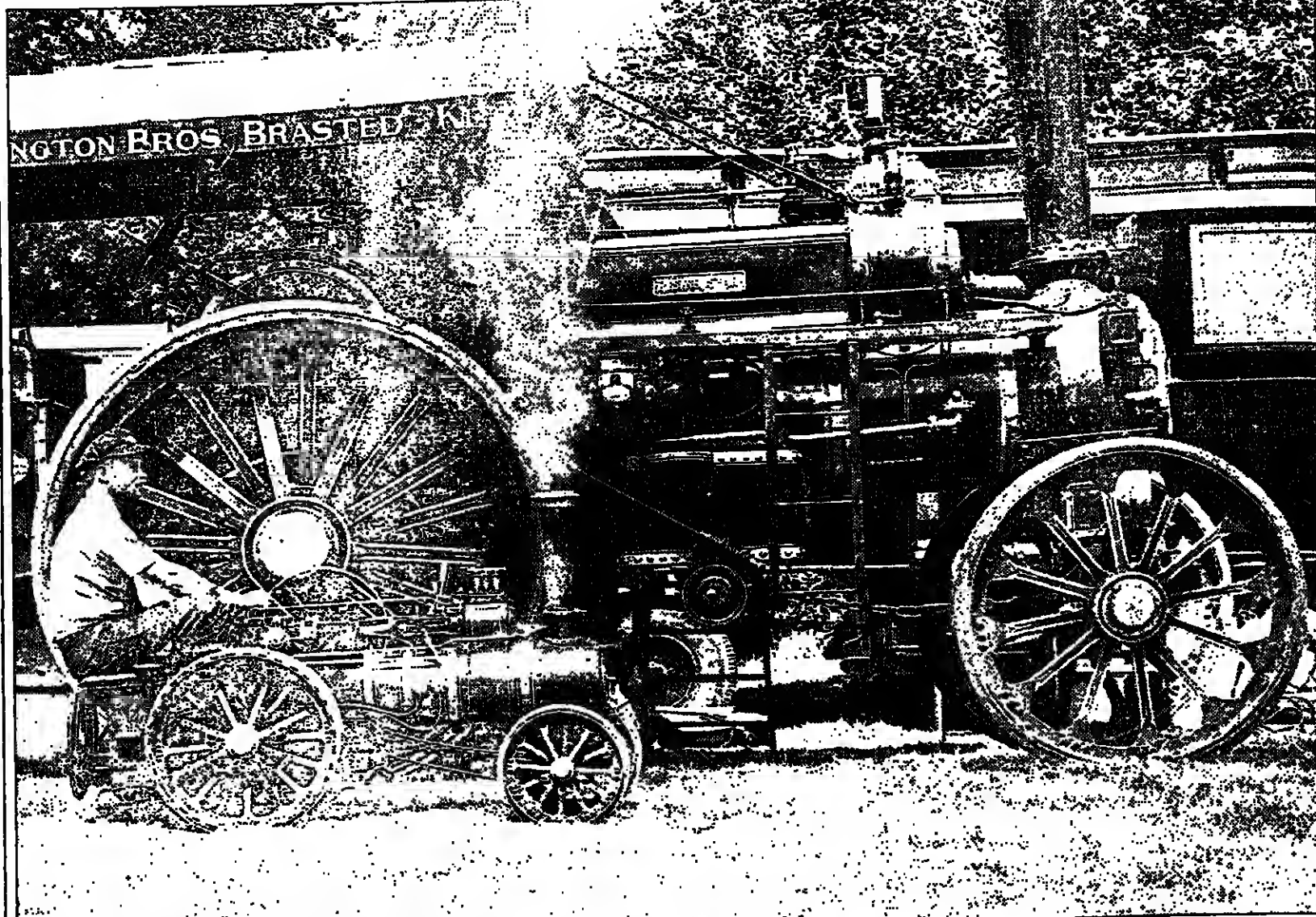
He said: "In London, it is difficult to try to arrange a co-

ordinated response. In a provincial town all the solicitors deal with each other and can get round a table and decide to use the new procedures."

Elsewhere, solicitors were enthusiastic but again said that the scheme had suffered because of the slump. Mr David Barker, a solicitor in Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, said: "Most firms here have joined. Initially, everyone was very enthusiastic and we still see my only regret is that the Law Society did not make its use mandatory."

The flow on to the housing market of converted barns providing much sought-after and expensive homes could end if local authorities heed a warning by English Heritage (Christopher Warman writes).

In advice on historic farm buildings English Heritage says that conversion has in many cases destroyed the interest of listed barns and recommends that local authorities introduce a "strong general presumption" against residential conversion and prefer agricultural, commercial or community use.



Small is beautiful: Mr Keith Osborne of Ashford, Kent, driving the 4ft engine he built past a larger one at a fair in Sellindge, near Folkestone

Marbella villas go to highest bidders

From HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

A GROUP of British homebuyers watched helplessly in Marbella yesterday as up to 43 villas and flats in which most had invested their life savings were sold at a court-ordered public auction.

The auction opened at the courthouse of the Costa del Sol resort after the Spanish-Arab Bank (Aresbank) served notice of foreclosure on mortgages negotiated by the developers, which the buyers claimed they were not told about at the time of purchase.

Mr Howard Dawson, a Yorkshire developer who allegedly sold the properties to British buyers while they were still under construction, was scheduled to testify before a judge in Madrid on Friday in connection with a suit brought against him by an association of purchasers of the properties at the Las Canelas estate. By then, however, the properties might already be sold to the highest bidders.

There was no one available at the Aresbank in Madrid yesterday to discuss its decision to foreclose.

Mr Antonio Martinez, of the law firm representing the British buyers, said that buyers were offered contracts by developers between 1982 and 1985 for the purchase of villas on condition they paid up to a half of the value on signing, with the rest to be paid out of renting the property during the first five years.

He said, however, that when they came to take possession at the end of the rental period, they found they were not given freehold as expected.

SNP joins attack on home rule proposals

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party yesterday joined the attack on Labour's home rule proposals for Scotland, claiming that devolution would lead to an expensive "toy town assembly" with no say in Europe.

On Sunday, Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, said home rule would increase income tax bills by 20p in the pound.

Mr Gordon Wilson, the SNP party leader, said yesterday that a Scottish assembly would not have any power over decisions on issues such as the future of the Ravenscraig steel plant or nuclear dumping. He said: "Labour's rusty old devolution plans would give Scots the worst of both worlds. We would have to pay extra for the dubious privilege of a toy town assembly, but at the same time have no power over vital decisions."

The nationalists' policy of independence in Europe, however, would meet the real needs of Scotland in the coming decade; for instance, for an independent Scottish Parliament at home and a direct Scottish voice in Europe. "What is more, independence in Europe, unlike devolution, would not cost a penny more," Mr Wilson said.

A delegation of Scottish MPs is to meet Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to discuss the future of Ravenscraig. The delegation, led by Mr Gordon Brown, Labour's spokesman on trade, will ask Mr Ridley what action the Government proposes to ensure the plant's future.

Protesters jeer at 'Popish' pilgrims

ABOUT 250 protesters jeered at 8,000 Anglican pilgrims as they held a procession through the village of Walsingham, Norfolk, yesterday, bearing an ornate statue of the Virgin Mary.

The Anglicans, including Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, and seven bishops, were greeted with cries of "Shame on you" and "Hypocrites" as they walked through the village, which for many centuries was an important place of pilgrimage.

The demonstrators carried placards saying "No Popery", "Popery, a swindle of the devil" and "Flee idolatry". They also waved Bibles at the pilgrims.

Mr Stephen Edwards, a Baptist from Manchester, said: "I think it's an abomination that we should be going back to the old days of worshipping statues or idols."

Mr Alan Williams, of Whitechurch, Shropshire, said: "I am protesting against deception in the Church of England." He claimed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, was "a traitor". "He no longer treasures the Thirty-nine Articles and is making deliberate steps towards Rome."

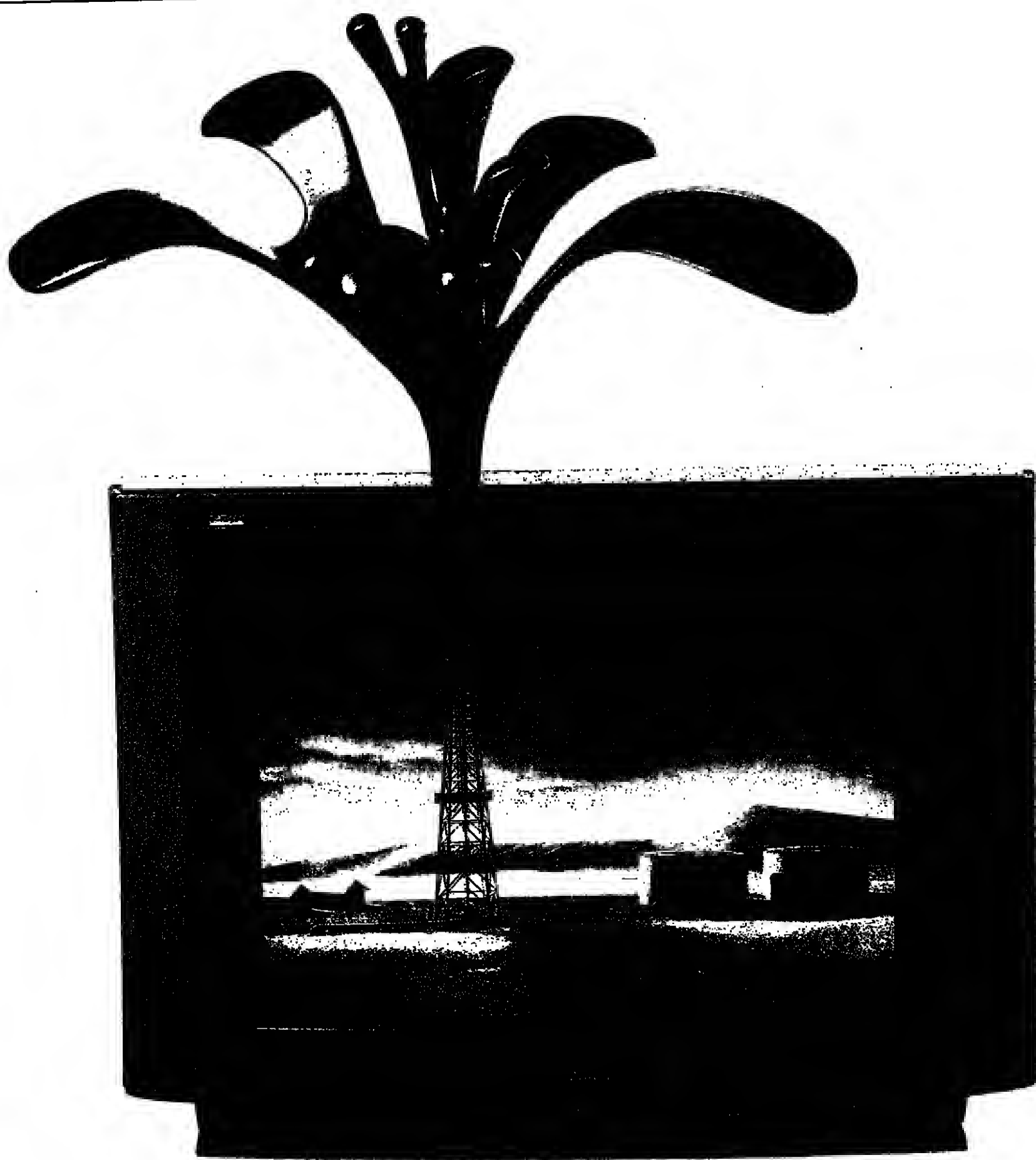
The chief steward, Canon Beaumont Brandie of Brighton, said pilgrims should not engage in argument with anyone who shouted abuse. "Our only effective weapon in these regrettable circumstances is dignified silence and renewed prayer."

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مكتبة من الأصول

Financial squeeze on health service bites nationwide

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities all over the country are facing the prospect of closing beds and delaying developments to try to balance their books by next April.

Yesterday, *The Times* reported on the difficulties facing the NHS in London but a survey undertaken by the National Association of Health Authorities in April showed that the problems extend nationwide. Nine out of 10 district health authorities in England and Wales thought they would have financial difficulties this year, one in three

said they would be unable to develop services and one in five claimed they would have to cut-back patient workloads. All districts are feeling the combined effects of under-funding on previous under-funding of pay awards and higher than expected inflation.

Scotland also had to tighten its belt. Last week it emerged that Lothian health board, which covers Edinburgh, was considering closing five hospitals to try to reduce overspending, expected to reach £15 million to £20 million by the end of the financial year.

Newcastle upon Tyne health authority, which as a teaching

district has similar problems to London, approved a £2 million package of reductions earlier this year, including 60 bed closures at its three main teaching hospitals, the Freeman, Newcastle General and the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Mr Tom Stanford, Newcastle director of financial management, said the district had also suffered under a regional policy of moving resources out of the city to less well provided-for areas. More than a hundred beds have closed since the policy began to bite five or six years ago, mainly in general medicine and general surgery. The district has received no real growth money

except for regional specialities such as heart transplants.

Mr Stanford blames the present squeeze on inflation and the under-funding of pay awards. Most service reductions are to meet a £2 million shortfall in inflation funding.

In spite of the bed losses, Mr Stanford is confident that Newcastle can still treat the same number of patients as in 1989/90, by reducing the length of stay and cutting the time between discharge of one patient and the next admission.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, believes London

has too many hospitals. Are there also too many in Newcastle draining the health service in the North of funds? Mr Stanford thinks not.

Newcastle is at least five years ahead of London, he explains, because it has already carried out a comprehensive review of services.

The review, commissioned five years ago by the Northern regional health authority, concluded that all three hospitals should stay but there should be a rationalization of services between them in terms of cost and clinical efficiency. Mr Stanford said that Trauma and obstetric services,

for example, which were provided on three sites are now being streamlined on one site although the district does not expect to complete the process for a number of other specialities for five to 10 years. All the hospitals will continue to be general hospitals providing local services but each will develop its own particular expertise to avoid duplication.

All the changes were planned long before the White Paper on the NHS was born, although if any of the three teaching hospitals chose to go self governing coherent planning could go out of the window.

Dispute on fate of MPs' hospital

By TOM GILES

FOR nearly a decade, plans to close Westminster Hospital and move its services three miles up the road have prompted protests, petitions, and disputes to Parliament. Some politicians and doctors are still fighting to save the teaching hospital, claiming that its world-famous services, such as the children's bone marrow transplant unit, have been needlessly run down.

This is in spite of the fact that Westminster and four other hospitals are to be replaced by the 665-bed, £201 million Westminster and Chelsea Hospital, being built on the site of St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, demolished last year.

Riverside District Health Authority says that only 115 beds will be lost by the move, at a potential saving of £15 million a year. Opponents, however, have criticized the new location, claiming that it will leave 60,000 residents and many more tourists and commuters without proper access to emergency care.

Riverside recently closed 102 beds at Westminster Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital, to pay for a deficit of £6.5 million from last year. Some doctors at the Westminster are concerned that these closures, well before the projected 1992 target, show that the authority is having difficulty with expenditure on the new scheme. Riverside denies that its financial difficulties are due to the new project, which it hopes to fund from selling hospital sites.

Lord Ennals, a former Labour health minister, has told the Lords that the new hospital is "hopelessly mislocated", and has called the plan "a mad waste of money".

Mr David Kenny, regional manager of North West Thames Regional Health Authority, says that the argument over ambulance journey times from the old Westminster to the new hospital is about whether it takes 8½ minutes or 4½ minutes. "In any other part of the UK this discussion would be regarded as a comedy show," Mr Kenny said.

"We are restructuring the health care in this part of London to allow it to survive in a more modern form. Very few people live around Westminster, it is grossly underpopulated and other areas are crying out for help. Because Westminster has been seen as the MPs' hospital we face strong traditional links and patronage," he added.

NHS reform 'may force addicts on to streets'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

HUNDREDS of drug addicts and alcoholics could be forced on to the streets or into prison as a result of the health service reforms, according to alcohol and drug abuse workers.

They fear that more than 1,000 residential beds for alcohol and drug-dependent people may have to close because of a proposal to transfer care funding from the Department of Social Security to local authorities. From next April, the £103 extra-care payment made weekly to rehabilitation centres for each resident will no longer come from the DSS.

Responsibility will pass to local authorities but they will not be compelled to pay it. Campaigners fear authorities

will be unable to find the funds. Lady Masham of Ilton, chairwoman of the drug rehabilitation project Phoenix House and vice-chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Drug Misuse Committee, is tomorrow tabling an amendment calling for transitional funding to safeguard the beds. The Bill soon faces its third and final reading.

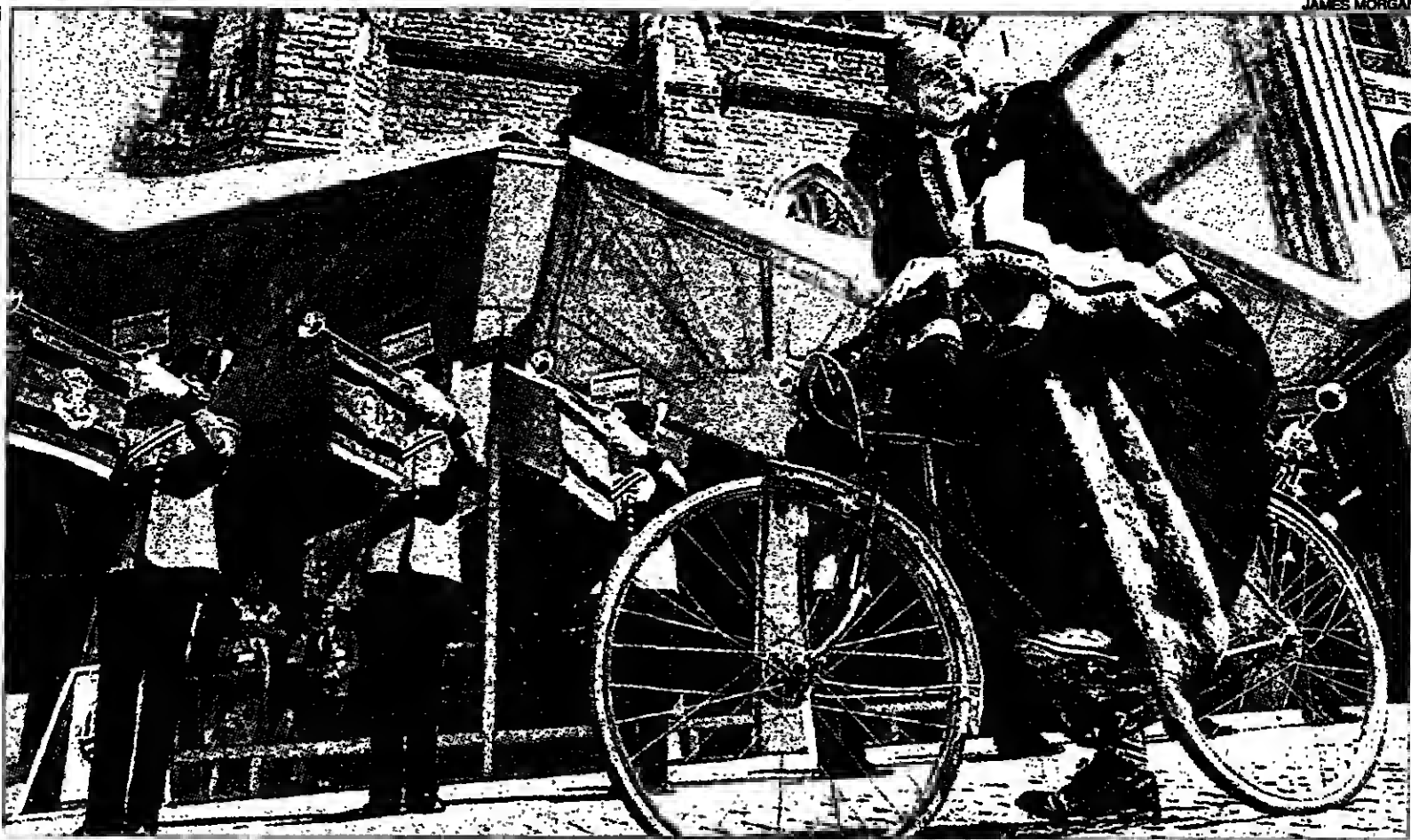
She said: "Drug and alcohol abuse is going up. It breaks up families and causes a lot of problems. The last place for these people is prison, but some will go there if there are no rehabilitation centres."

Sir George Young, Conservative MP for Ealing, Acton, and former DHSS Under Secretary of State, said an urgent amendment to the Bill was needed to prevent alcohol and drug residential services from slipping through the net. "All the indications are that local authorities are not regarding this as a priority."

Mr Brian Watts, co-ordinator of the newly-opened Drink Crisis Centre in south-east London, said: "Clients will end up in hospital and some will die. Hospitals and day centres will be swamped. People will end up in prison or under the arches. They will appear back in the courts. The overall cost to the Government will be much greater than any apparent savings."

The Greater London Association of Alcohol Services, which represents more than 70 alcohol agencies, said the proposals would have a "devastating" effect on provision. "From a straw poll of a number of authorities in London, it is clear that alcohol services have a very low priority."

Mr Nigel Rogers, deputy director of the Alcohol Recovery Project, which has 13 hostels with 77 beds, said: "Unless special arrangements are made, we stand to lose up to £250,000 next year from a revenue of just under £1.2 million." The project is already part-funded by grant aid from local authorities. "We are out against the new system. But we have developed a range of services based on the old one and a sudden change could disrupt the whole thing."



A fanfare of trumpets greeting Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea, immediate past master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, as he arrived at Guildhall, City of

London, by bicycle yesterday for the opening of the world plumbing conference (Robin Young writes). Plumbers of 31 nations will attend workshops on plumbing,

sanitation and water heating. Among conference topics will be legionnaire's disease, sanitation programmes for developing countries and water recycling plants

Efficacy of implants questioned

By PEARCE WRIGHT
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE controversial experiment to treat Parkinson's disease with brain grafts of foetal tissue is dogged by doubt. The three main research teams, from Britain, Sweden and Mexico, which presented their preliminary results to the Parkinson's Disease Society in London last week, said they were uncertain of its effectiveness.

Since the first operation in 1987, more than 30 patients in Britain and 100 worldwide have received brain grafts for Parkinson's disease, caused by a deficiency in the brain of the chemical messenger dopamine. About one case a week is added to the total.

Professor Edward Hitchcock from Birmingham University described 12 patients given grafts in 1988 and 1989. All showed an initial improvement, but some had returned to their original state and had continued to deteriorate. All the experts accept that the improvements in some cases might be caused by direct stimulation of brain tissue provoked by the surgery.

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High price of handling poll tax

By RAY CLANCY

THE cost of administering the community charge and handling rebates in England and Wales is well over double that of the rates last year, according to a provisional analysis of council spending.

Early results compiled by the Institute of Public Finance — an independent research consultancy owned by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy — put the cost of the poll tax at £588 million for 1990/91 compared with £219 million for rate collection last year. "Indeed the cost of administering the community charge is more than the total cost of collecting refuse this year which amounted to £495 million," the consultancy said.

● A 25 per cent yearly rise in West Lothian District Council's community charge is a possibility to maintain its present level of expenditure without additional sources of income. The likelihood of the big poll tax increase is disclosed by Mr Alex Linkston, the council's chief executive.

Lack of debt advisers criticized

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THERE is a serious shortage of specialists to help people resolve problems of debt, a report published today claims.

Some areas, dogged by poverty, have little or no debt advice and there is an increasing need for such advice even in prosperous areas. Debtors in the West Midlands receive the most help and those in Northern Ireland the least.

The study, carried out by the National Consumer Council, found that fewer than one in five of the voluntary advice centres that responded to the questionnaire had specialist debt advice workers. Where debt advice was avail-

able, funding usually came from local authorities. The finance industry was doing little to fund such advice, with some notable exceptions. American Express, for instance, had made a two-year grant of £35,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau at Brighton.

The report says that of 600 voluntary advice centres in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, 473 had no debt advisers. Four out of 18 regional areas in England and Wales had regional advice units to back up general advice centres. Of the 247 local authorities in England and Wales that responded, 43 provided no debt advice, 175 had staff providing a limited range of advice, one

had money advice support units and six offered money advice services.

The Citizens Advice Bureau said that for a typical client with an income of £110 a week who owed six creditors £5,000, the amount of work involved in drawing up a repayment plan took up four hours, between 25 and 35 letters and many telephone calls, 15 hours of back-up work by a money adviser and four hours of clerical work. Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said that more than 500,000 households owe had three or more problem debts and called for a comprehensive network of locally based debt advice services.

Merchant fleet seeks investment

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is facing the prospect of complete maritime eclipse, unless the Government introduces fiscal incentives to encourage new investment in shipping, according to the General Council of British Shipping.

After the shipping crisis of the 1970s Britain's merchant fleet declined from 1,143 ves-

sels at the beginning of the 1980s to 581 vessels by 1990. The number of officers and ratings employed in the industry fell from 61,000 to 21,000 over the same period, the GCBS said.

Although the industry is undergoing a recovery the combination of spiralling prices for new and second hand vessels, along with government assistance for shipping companies in Norway, Denmark and West Germany, is impairing Britain's ability to compete.

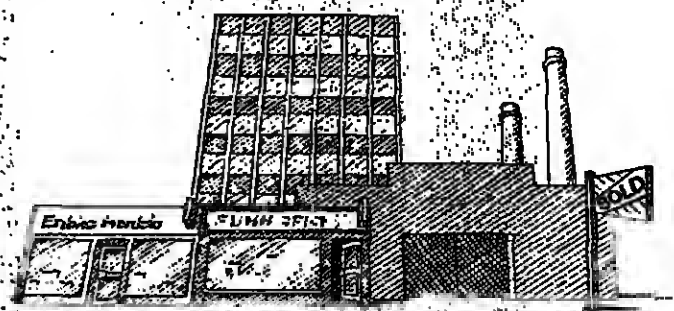
To bridge the competitive gap, the GCBS has been lobbying the Government for more generous depreciation allowances, greater flexibility in corporation taxes and measures to make the employment of domestic seafarers more attractive.

Last week, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, took the first step in that direction by announcing a wide-ranging investigation into ways of reversing the alarming decline in the size of Britain's merchant marine.

The announcement was widely seen as a belated recognition of the importance of shipping's foreign exchange earnings, against the backdrop of last year's £20 billion balance of payments deficit — the largest registered to date.

A working party is to be set up to identify what fiscal and employment measures will be needed to improve Britain's competitive position in world shipping. It will report by September and will be jointly chaired by Mr Parkinson, and Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and newly appointed president of the GCBS. The shipping industry, contributed £3.5 billion gross to the UK balance of payments in 1988, and is the third largest earner in the invisibles sector.

● British shipowners are making extensive use of "flagging out", according to a report on shipping in the European Community, published today by Lloyd's Register. The technique enables firms to register vessels under a flag of convenience.



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Poll victor Gaviria calls for support in drug war

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN BOGOTÁ

Colombia's new President-elect, César Gaviria, said yesterday that his country was paying "a very high price" for its war against the powerful drug cartels and hinted that its commitment might falter unless consumption to the United States and Europe was tackled with equal vigour.

Senor Gaviria, an economist, who at 43 will become the youngest President in his country's history when he takes office in August, was an easy victor in Sunday's elections despite a terror campaign waged by the drug barons aimed at eroding support for his tough stand against narcotics.

However, his 47 per cent share of an unusually low turnout was less than expected and short of the overwhelming mandate he had sought to carry on the all-out war on the drug traffickers declared last August by the outgoing President Barco.

Only six million people voted in a nation of 31 millions. Some 55 per cent of the electorate abstained. The rest of the votes cast were shared by three candidates who had campaigned for negotiations with the drug barons and for an end to the controversial extradition of Colombian nationals wanted in the United States. They can now argue, as they consider Senor Gaviria's invitation to form a government of national unity, that half of those who voted on Sunday agree with them.

"We will not allow a criminal issue to become a political one," the President-elect said during his victory speech. "We will bring order-terror to its knees. However, narco-trafficking is a multi-lateral problem, and the industrialized countries are doing too little to stop consumption. If they do not

do more it will be very difficult for Colombians to accept that their sacrifice is not being reciprocated and may be in vain."

More than 500 people have been killed here since the drug war began 10 months ago, half of them policemen. The price Colombia was paying "the lives of our best men", Senor Gaviria lamented.

His distinction between the terrorism of the drug cartels and the business they are pursuing is one that causes growing concern among American officials fighting the drug barons here. They fear that Colombia's commitment to the drug war may weaken once the most violent criminals, like Pablo Escobar, head of the Medellín cartel, are captured or killed. Nor is Senor Gaviria's support for extradition unconditional: he has pledged to continue applying it only as long as it takes him to rebuild Colombia's own terrorized justice system.

Sunday's ballot included a referendum on the proposed creation of a new constitutional assembly empowered to reform the country's basic statutes and institutions: voters gave it their approval.

President Barco is expected to move quickly on appointing the new assembly and Senor Gaviria has indicated that the creation of a special judicial panel to deal with drug traffickers and illegal armed groups will be a priority when he takes over.

The new Government confronts a markedly changed political situation. The election was a humiliating defeat for the Social Conservative Party whose candidate, Senor Rodrigo Lloreda, was beaten into fourth place.

The former guerrillas of the M-19 rebel movement were delighted with their 12.7 per cent share of the vote.



AN ISRAELI woman soldier being comforted by a male colleague after a bomb exploded yesterday in a crowded Jewish market in Jerusalem. At least 10 Israelis were injured, two seriously (Our Own Correspondent writes). The attack was regarded as Arab retaliation for last week's murder of seven Palestinians by a deranged former Israeli soldier. Police sealed off the Mahane Yehuda (Jewish market) following the blast just after noon. Palestinian workers were rounded up and their hands were checked for traces of explosives. The attack is bound to escalate

Arab-Israeli violence, coming after a week of clashes in the occupied territories sparked off by last week's shootings. The Israeli Government tied yesterday's attack to the opening of the Arab summit in Baghdad. Mr Yossi Ben-Aharon, the Director-General in the Prime Minister's Office, said: "The PLO is sending a message to the Arab summit... to show that it still has teeth." Later yesterday, members of the Kach Jewish military movement staged a rally at Rishon le Zion, the site of last week's shooting, calling for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the territories.

Mexico's 'Mighty Ant' tackles giant of reform

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN MEXICO CITY

FOLLOWING the international trend towards reform, President Salinas of Mexico has moved purposefully to shake up his country's political system, and the monolithic Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has been in power for 61 years.

Senor Salinas, a wiry, balding figure nicknamed "the Mighty Ant", has overseen the privatization of unprofitable state-owned firms in a country whose economy was rooted in the public sector. He has reduced inflation, renegotiated Mexico's large foreign debt, and increased exports by welcoming foreign investment. In an effort to eradicate official corruption soon after taking office, he imprisoned two prominent union leaders.

Senor Salinas has also moved further towards reform than his predecessors by conceding defeat last year in a surprisingly honest gubernatorial election. Moreover, he has gained the support of the American Government while not appearing to be dominated by his rich neighbour. At the Los Pinos palace, he recently admonished Vice-President Quahque for the role of the American authorities in kidnapping a Mexican doctor wanted in the United States on drug-trafficking charges.

Washington recognizes that Mexico's economic stability is crucial for smooth relations and is eager to help the Salinas administration. The two nations acknowledged recently that they were discussing a free-trade agreement. President Bush, careful not to appear to be bullying Mexico in caricature Yankee fashion, has said Senor Salinas will set the pace of talks.

Mexicans generally are pleased with the President's economic reforms, nicknamed "Salinastroika". Fortunately for the administration, they have been willing to accept with little protest any drastic measure that could reverse the 50 per cent drop in living standards they suffered under the previous administration. Compared with other Latin American economies, they know they are doing well. Exports are rising and supermarkets are full.

What is more, the left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party has produced no detailed plan that would appear to challenge the reforms. The party claims that the monopoly television company, which is sympathetic to the ruling party, did not give it fair coverage in the 1988 elections.

The party stepped up criticism of the Government last week after the arrest of one of its members, the mayor of a remote town in Michoacán, one of Mexico's leading drug-producing states. The mayor is charged with protecting the drug producers.

Visitors can see that daily access to anti-establishment information is poor. Bulky establishment newspapers run the speeches of ministers with little criticism.

Mexicans are not blind to shortcomings in the political system. They are merely pragmatic. So far, they think President Salinas is doing reasonably well. One of the most welcome changes is the availability of new consumer goods. Shoppers at supermarkets fill their trolleys with imported beer and wine.

On their television screens, however, they watch cynically as the wily-framed, balding President flits across the country in his helicopter, dedicating new schools and motorways flanked by hoardings proclaiming the Government's commitment to solve rural poverty. Instinctively, they jeer at the rhetoric, but regard Senor Salinas as probably the country's best leader within memory.

The key to the President's success from here, foreign policy experts say, lies in his ability to satisfy the foreign business community. Mindful of this, he last week launched his bravest attempt yet to shake up state capitalism by asking Congress to allow the re-privatization of Mexican banks. Congress has agreed.

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The party stepped up criticism of the Government last week after the arrest of one of its members, the mayor of a remote town in Michoacán, one of Mexico's leading drug-producing states. The mayor is

known as the legendary "Gluhba Pasha", had returned to command the Jordanian armed forces.

As the outables queued to shake the monarch's hand, they were treated to the incongruous but stirring sound of the Royal Military Band's Arab pipes performing a full, if sometimes repetitious, selection of Highland melodies.

Not everyone attending the function had cause to celebrate. The reformist course embarked on by King Hussein has led to widespread calls in parliament and in public for a corruption investigation into the past 10 years of government, which is accused of leading the country into its present economic difficulties.

Nine state contracts have been referred by the Government to the country's prosecutor to investigate allegations of corruption in deals involving construction projects, a sale of Central Bank gold reserves and bulk food purchases. At least 19 other deals are being investigated by parliament. One man allegedly involved in defrauding

the Petra Bank has already fled the country, one government official has been arrested over state purchases of rice, and more arrests are likely to follow.

Jordan's neighbours, Syria and Saudi Arabia, are also unhappy at the democratization process. With the popular revolution of Eastern Europe still fresh in his mind, President Assad of Syria has complained to Amman about Jordanian television, which since it was granted greater freedom in its news broadcasts has attracted large Syrian audiences bored with their own diet of propaganda programmes. Similarly, the Saudis are unhappy that Jordan's women have been granted equal rights under the Constitution, particularly the right to vote in last November's elections.

The orthodox Saudi establishment will have more cause for concern in the near future when the men and women of its recently united neighbours, North and South Yemen, also go to the polls.

Burma junta concedes win by opposition

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HOPES that democracy and freedom may be restored in Burma rose yesterday when the military Government conceded that the opposition had apparently won the first free elections for 30 years.

It also repeated earlier promises to hand over power once the Parliament had passed a new constitution and formed a government.

U Soe Nyunt, of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, declared: "If we had no intention of handing over power, we would not have had these elections."

But Western diplomats remained cautious about the junta's intentions, because it has given no indication how long the transition to civilian rule might take.

There are fears that it might be delayed for about two years while the constitution is written.

Colonel Ye Htut, a junta spokesman, said the military would hand over to "any government that is constituted after a written constitution". But the delay while the constitution is written seems likely to cause tensions.

Some fear that any incidents could be used by the junta to justify remaining in power.

The concerns probably explained a lack of early celebrations, except at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy, which claimed victory.

A further cause of worry was the hidden influence of General Ne Win, who dominated Burma for 26 years before stepping down under pressure

in 1988. He retains the loyalty of important elements in the Army and is unlikely to approve any quick progress towards civilian government.

But the poll appeared to have been more fairly conducted than expected, despite intimidation of opposition candidates during the campaign. Only small numbers of troops were on the streets, in contrast to their heavy presence during the campaign.

As the League sensed victory, its campaigners renewed their demands for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, aged 44, who has been under house arrest since July, 1989. Her husband, Dr Michael Aris, an expert on Himalayan and Tibetan affairs at Wolfson College, Oxford, has not been allowed to see her since Christmas.

The Burmese authorities have revoked the passports of their sons, Kim, aged 12, and Alexander, aged 17, making it impossible for them to visit their mother.

Despite her detention, she has become Burma's foremost symbol of democracy, mainly because her father, General Aung San, led Burma to independence from Britain. Her popularity increased during a year in which she toured Burma making speeches before her house arrest.

Junta officials would not comment on whether she would be freed, nor on the future of U Tin Oo, the party's secretary-general, who is in prison. "That is higher policy," said Colonel Ye Htut.

The colonel said that the League had so far won about 100 of 485 seats in the new Parliament and was set to take two-thirds of the vote. He based this on unofficial projections after results in 15 constituencies were declared.

His estimate was not far short of a claim by Mr Myint Swe, a League official, that it had won about 75 per cent of the vote. Although the final outcome may not be known for three weeks, the party seems likely to have a majority in Parliament.

The League added that it won 40 of Rangoon's 61 seats and expected to take 58. It also claimed victory in taking all 13 of the seats in the south-east Tenasserim division, 17 of 20 in south-east Mon state, 12 of 35 in north-east Shan state, 20 out of 49 in the crucial rice-growing Irrawaddy division, two out of 39 in Magway and 14 out of 48 in Pegu.

The first 15 official results reported by Radio Rangoon supported the opposition's hopes of a landslide.

Leading article, page 13

Iraq threat to Israel repeated

Baghdad - President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, defying US advice to restrain his language, repeated that Iraq would respond in kind to any Israeli nuclear or chemical attack on an Arab country.

"If Israel attacks, we will hit back strongly, and if it uses weapons of total destruction against our nation, we will use weapons of total destruction against it," he told the opening session of an Arab summit here. In a note before the summit, the US said it was concerned at Iraq's language on the use of missiles and chemical weapons. (Reuter)

North Korea returns bodies

Panmunjom - North Korea returned the remains of five American soldiers who fought and died in the Korean War, the first such return of soldiers missing in action since 1954 (John Girdlestone writes).

More than 8,000 allied soldiers remain missing from the 1950-53 War and North Korea has refused to release their bodies. Analysts regarded this gesture as a bid by the isolated North Korean Communist regime to improve its relations with the US.

Bomb blasts rock Athens

Athens - Three bomb blasts rocked central Athens, slightly injuring a woman passerby and wrecking several cars, police said. It was the third bomb attack here in as many weeks.

The bombs were placed under cars near the Hilton Hotel and exploded simultaneously after midnight. No one has claimed responsibility. The previous attacks were claimed by left-wing guerrilla groups protesting against the new conservative Government's economic austerity measures and changes in foreign policy. (Reuter)

Lockerbie report spurs US action

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States is to announce a comprehensive overhaul of airline security next month following the damning report of the presidential commission on the Lockerbie disaster.

The report, released two weeks ago, disclosed a catalogue of security lapses by Pan Am at both Frankfurt and Heathrow airports, and a persistent failure by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to enforce security regulations. It is said to have jolted the US Administration.

Mr Samuel Skinner, the Transportation Secretary, said in a weekend interview with *The Washington Post*: "I think it's fair to say we've taken the report very seriously." In particular, he said his office would probably assume direct control of aviation security and intelligence matters from the FAA. This and the appointment of an assistant secretary for such matters, was one of the report's central recommendations.

"I am leaning toward accepting in some form, probably a form very close to what the report recommends, elevation of the national security intelligence issues up to the Secretary's office," he said. "I think that's a very solid suggestion."

Mr Skinner sidestepped questions on another of the report's central recommendations, that the installation of 150 Semtex-detection machines worth \$175 million (£104 million) at 40 key airports around the world be deferred. The commission said the thermal-neutron analysis machines were unreliable and unable to detect amounts of Semtex as small as that which destroyed Pan Am Flight 103.

Mr Skinner said there was no other technology presently available, but conceded there was "mixed opinion" about the machines. He was not in office at the time of the Lockerbie disaster, which will make it easier for him to implement some of the report's 60 recommendations.

In the same interview, he expressed alarm at the nine months it took Pan Am and the FAA to install satisfactory security at Frankfurt after the disaster. "During this period after Pan Am 103 until we really tightened down... we were very vulnerable," he said.

No Administration official has yet commented on the commission's most fundamental recommendation, that the US should be prepared to carry out pre-emptive or retaliatory military action against known terrorist organizations.

Family calls in historic US debt

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IF JACOB DeHaven had not lent George Washington's beleaguered army \$450,000, the United States may not have won its independence from Britain. Now his family wants to call in the debt.

Relatives of the wealthy Pennsylvania merchant, who died penniless in 1812, are suing the US Government for repayment of the loan. At 6 per cent interest, compounded daily, they claim they are owed \$141.6 billion (£83.8 billion) - and that the amount is growing at \$190 a second.

DeHaven, one of nine children in a family of merchants and landowners, lived on farmland near the Valley Forge camp west of Philadelphia, where George Washington's revolutionary force, the Continental Army, spent the winter of 1777-78.

The weather was severe, and, lacking food, clothing and shelter, some 2,500 soldiers died. Among the remaining 11,000, there was talk of mutiny.

Washington, later to become the first President of the United States, sent a desperate appeal for money in the president of Pennsylvania. "Unless aid comes, our affairs must soon become desperate beyond the possibility of recovery. The army must disband or starve."

DeHaven responded with a loan of \$50,000 in gold and supplies estimated by his family at another \$400,000. With this help, the Continental Army survived the winter.

To this day, Valley Forge, now a national park, remains a symbol for Americans of their struggle against the British. DeHaven apparently tried several times during his lifetime to recover his loan.

But he was offered settlement only in the new republic's currency, the worthless Continental dollar. When he died, all he left his siblings and their children - he had no children of his own - was the memory of his sacrifice.

As the story passed from generation to generation, sev-

eral more attempts were made to recover the debt from the Treasury. In 1910, the family hired lawyers to investigate the claim. But despite their conclusion that enough evidence existed to substantiate the loan, no suit was filed.

In the 1920s, President Coolidge told Congress that he thought the loan, then valued at \$4 million, should be repaid. In 1966, a congressman introduced a bill providing for a token repayment of \$50,000, but the measure died in committee.

Now, for the first time, the family has gone to court. The suit was initiated in January 1988, by Mrs Thelma Weissenforth Launas from Stafford, Texas, who is a DeHaven on her father's side, and who promised him before he died that she would try to recover the loan.

Mrs Launas approached a newly qualified lawyer who accepted the case in exchange for a share of any proceeds. The lawyer asked the Bank of Houston to calculate the present-day value of the loan at the 6 per cent interest rate offered by the Continental Congress, the revolutionary government.

In January, a judge in Washington ruled that the statute of limitations had expired on the claim at least a century ago. But the family has not given up and last week filed an appeal.

They contend that the lower court's ruling violates Article 6 of the Constitution, which declares as valid all debts owed by the federal Government at the time that the document was adopted.

More than 800 people from as far away as Italy and Hawaii have contacted the family's lawyer claiming to be descended from DeHaven.

The lawsuit is classified as a class action, and lists the number of relatives at 50,000. But the family's lawyer estimates that, based on 10 generations with four children each, the number of relatives could run to 500,000.



Senor Gaviria celebrating his success with his family

Fraud trial starts of Papandreou minister

FROM CHRIS ELIOT IN ATHENS

THE first of a series of criminal trials involving Mr Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek Prime Minister, and some senior members of his socialist Government began yesterday before a special court appointed by Parliament.

The trial over the fraudulent sale to the European Community in 1986 of Yugoslav corn, documented as Greek, got under way amid stringent security at the Supreme Court building. It involves Mr Nikos Athanassopoulos, a former Finance Minister, Mr Soulis Apostolopoulos, the president of the Ico state trading company, its sales manager, and four other senior Finance Ministry and Customs officials.

The charges include fraud, forging state documents, issuing false statements, and felony. The European Community fined Greece \$2.5 million (£1.4 million) in 1987 for the illegal \$10 million corn sale.

He went to Telford in 1987. A Sharia court in Amman at the weekend found him guilty of "apostasy" - the same infringement of Islamic law which led to the death sentence against the author Salman Rushdie - because he attended a conference of the mystical Qadiri sect.

The religious movement was founded at the end of the last century by a self-proclaimed prophet who claimed to represent Muhammad, Jesus Christ and Krishna. Under Islamic law, immunity is extended to anyone who sheds the blood of an "apostate". Mr Naab is accused of writing two poems and signing a paper during the movement's world conference. He claims he attended in his capacity as a journalist, and plans to appeal.

He has been 44 years since Britain granted independence to Jordan, but a small vestige of the three decades of British rule still remains in the Hashemite kingdom. At a reception last week marking the event, the assembled 1,200 diplomatic and official dignitaries would have been forgiven for believing that Lieutenant-General Sir John Glubb, better

AMMAN NOTEBOOK by Nicholas Beeston

Coiffeurs put a crimp in fundamentalist wave

The steady rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Jordan has suffered a setback at the hands of a small but courageous group of well-groomed Jordanian men and women.

Already under pressure from a newly elected parliament, dominated by orthodox Muslim deputies, the Government attempted this month to impose a ban on male hairdressers touching female clients. It was intended to enforce a decree under Sharia (Islamic law) forbidding strangers to tamper with a Muslim woman. But the outcry from Jordan's 1,500 coiffeurs and women's rights groups threatened to touch off a constitutional crisis in the secular state, and the Interior Ministry was forced to rescind its decree.

The hairdressers' victory for secularism has done little to save Mr Abu Naab, aged 59, a journalist who stands to be separated from his wife and children, stripped of his assets, and possibly executed, all because

he went to Telford in 1987. A Sharia court in Amman at the weekend found him guilty of "apostasy" - the same infringement of Islamic law which led to the death sentence against the author Salman Rushdie - because he attended a conference of the mystical Qadiri sect.

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known as the legendary "Glubb Pasha", had returned to command the Jordanian armed forces.

As the outables queued to shake the monarch's hand, they were treated to the incongruous but stirring sound of the Royal Military Band's Arab pipes performing a full, if sometimes repetitious, selection of Highland melodies.

Not everyone attending the function had cause to celebrate. The reformist course embarked on by King Hussein has led to widespread calls in parliament and in public for a corruption investigation into the past 10 years of government, which is accused of leading the country into its present economic difficulties.

Nine state contracts have been referred by the Government to the country's prosecutor to investigate allegations of corruption in deals involving construction projects, a sale of Central Bank gold reserves and bulk food purchases. At least 19 other deals are being investigated by parliament. One man allegedly involved in defrauding

the Petra Bank has already fled the country, one government official has been arrested over state purchases of rice, and more arrests are likely to follow.

Jordan's neighbours, Syria and Saudi Arabia, are also unhappy at the democratization process. With the popular revolution of Eastern Europe still fresh in his mind, President Assad of Syria has complained to Amman about Jordanian television, which since it was granted greater freedom in its news broadcasts has attracted large Syrian audiences bored with their own diet of propaganda programmes. Similarly, the Saudis are unhappy that Jordan's women have been granted equal rights under the Constitution, particularly the right to vote in last November's elections.

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Apparatchiks muster for last stand against Yeltsin

From RICHARD OWEN
IN MOSCOW

"WHAT would Lenin have made of this?" I asked a bearded Christian Democrat deputy as we walked up the ornate staircase to the Great Hall of the Kremlin, where a passionate debate in the Russian Federation parliament on Mr Boris Yeltsin and the future of Russian democracy was clearly audible.

Furious at an attempt to prevent Mr Yeltsin standing for president for the third time, dozens of reformers were storming the podium. Outside, where most Russians were preoccupied with the food rationing which came into force yesterday after panic-buying over planned price rises, demonstrators were chanting "Yeltsin, saviour of Russia, Yeltsin, the man we trust".

"This is the last stand of the party apparat," the deputy said. "The power of the Communists is crumbling after 70 years. Even if Yeltsin loses because of

the voting system, this will come to be seen as the beginning of the end."

Above our heads, a huge gilt-framed picture showed Lenin addressing the third congress of the Komsomol, the communist youth organisation, in 1920: the young soldiers and workers fired by a sense of making history, their upturned faces full of expectation. "Perhaps Lenin would have understood," said Mr Aleksandr Lyubimov, a pro-Yeltsin deputy from Tambov. "Noisy debate was familiar to him. The difference is that the ideas he stood for in the early 1920s were killed stone dead by half a century of communism. It's time we kicked the shabby apparatchiks out. I can't understand why Yeltsin even considers making a coalition. They belong to the past, they're finished."

Mr Yeltsin's olive branch to party conservatives yesterday was intended to prevent them from blocking his election as president of the Russian Federation, as they did — narrowly — twice last week.

But for many of the party bureaucrats, the pandemonium at yesterday's session must have been a sign that something has changed fundamentally. After decades of enforced silence and obedience, Russians have found their voice, and are returning, with astonishing speed to the turbulent politics of 70 or 80 years ago.

The result is a bewildering babble of conflicting views and a sudden sprouting of numerous political parties: Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, Anarchists, Liberals, the new Democratic Russia Party, which favours private property and pluralism, and even monarchists.

The scene is described as resembling the stormy early years after 1917, when the fate of the revolution was hotly debated. Others reach back to the pre-revolutionary State Duma, or Assembly. Yesterday, as speaker after speaker declared that Russia was irrevocably split between left and right, Democrats and Communists, a liberal-minded gen-

eral rose to suggest a reversion to Duma coalition procedures.

In the same hall, where only five years ago deputies raised their hands to rubber-stamp communist laws, something close to Westminster-style uproar prevails. When the chairman — a hardliner who favours Mr Ivan Polozkov, the apparatchiks' candidate in opposition to Mr Yeltsin, ruled that those who stood in the two earlier rounds had "no moral right" to stand again, the great roar of anger from Mr Yeltsin's supporters and the Democratic Russia bloc could be heard beyond the Kremlin walls. Within minutes the reformers had invaded the podium, among them the tall figure of Mr Yeltsin. The chairman, overwhelmed, reversed the decision, and Mr Yeltsin appealed for calm, offering a coalition deal if he were elected. He condemned President Gorbachev's programme for a transition to a market economy, saying that it had been badly mishandled by concentrating

only on price rises. He denied that a "sovereign Russia" under his leadership would secede from the Soviet Union, but emphasized that the party congress of July would be the Party's "last chance" to avoid complete disintegration.

In the corridors, Yeltsin supporters predicted street clashes if he were not elected. "There will be a social Chernobyl," said Mr Bella Kurkova, a Leningrad television presenter. "The split here is 50-50, but in the towns and villages it's more like 18-20 in favour of Yeltsin." The Yeltsin group suggested a referendum instead of an election. In the members' lobby, hundreds of telegrams posted on notice boards urged deputies to vote for Mr Yeltsin.

Out in the streets, shoppers were still besieging foodstores despite Mr Gorbachev's direct appeal on television on Sunday night "not to panic" and his warning that fear of change would only store up future tensions. A market economy, he explained in a 50-minute

address, would initially cause pain but rewards would come later through enterprise and initiative.

Many Russians, however, still equate enterprise with profiteering. "We must have food," shoppers shouted at stores in Moscow, where purchases were being limited to people able to prove that they were resident in the city. Thousands of people from the provinces pleaded with Muscovites to shop for them. "There is nothing to eat in Yaroslavl," one woman said, clutching an empty bag. "There is nothing here either," retorted a Muscovite, gesturing at the near-empty shelves, while assistants relayed the rationing measures to a tired and angry crowd through loudspeakers.

I asked a woman what she thought of Mr Gorbachev's explanation of the market economy. She turned on me angrily. "Words, words, words," she spat out. "We need action." Who could provide it? "Boris Yeltsin," she said without hesitation.

Bush summit brief focuses on future US role in Europe

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush returns to work today for two days of intense consultation with his closest advisers before he welcomes President Gorbachev to their summit talks tomorrow.

The contrast between the two leaders' past few days could hardly be greater, with Mr Bush playing golf and shouting optimistic quotes to reporters and Mr Gorbachev having to appear on Soviet television to appeal for calm in the food queues.

But as the Soviet Union falls into chaos and as Germany grows together, as arms-control talks ebb and flow and regional issues flare from Kashmir to Cuba, President Bush has to ensure that he is not distracted from the main task in hand at the summit: the guaranteeing of proper US influence in the new Europe.

The authority of Nato is the first key to that aim. Nothing is more important than to ensure that Nato, in which the US predominates, remains as a bridge between the old Europe and the new, pointing the way to the right degree of American power in the decades ahead. That means the future power to influence Germany and discourage any independent ambitions to be master of its own security. It also means the power to counterbalance a Soviet Union, which even if smaller, weaker, and looser, will be an important military force.

As a *New York Times* writer commented yesterday, it is a task worthy of Prince Metternich, the 19th-century Habsburg Foreign Minister.

While House aides argue that no more able diplomat has been President since the Second World War than Mr Bush. However, others retort that, despite the President's firm shouts from the green yesterday that Mr Gorbachev was "pretty darn strong", most independent evidence pointed in the other direction.

Even Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, said at the weekend that a threat of a popular revolt "from the bottom rather than the top" was greater than before.

For the moment at least, however, President Gorbachev's reformist Government is the one with which the American President must deal this week. Among the aides preparing the US side of the summit talks, serious consideration is being given to Mr Gorbachev's hint last Friday that he might accept German membership of Nato if Germany were outside, like France, from the alliance's military command.

The proposal is not acceptable in itself. The US is fighting for progress in the opposite direction — the reintegration of France into a new Nato structure.

But it is seen as an important public sign that Mr Gorbachev is prepared to compromise on the issue. There have been several past attempts by American negotiators to get Mr Gorbachev to say in public what they believe he has already decided in private — that German membership of Nato is both unstoppable and, if constructed in the right way, positively desirable.

Washington believes that it is no longer seen as a Soviet interest to drive the US wholly from Europe, a very possible outcome if the Americans feel they are being given no serious seat at European councils. Moscow fears both becoming too exclusively dependent on Berlin's economic aid in the short term and its military might in the future. The United States knows that both Soviet and German domination of Europe are to its long-term detriment.

On paper there is the basis of a US-Soviet deal based on interests common to both. The question is whether Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev can

now find it or, indeed, ever find it.

President Bush is a great consultant of his allies. France, in particular, has been wooed in recent months to end its policy of refusing Nato forces on its soil. In a future security system in which air power will be increasingly important, there is a strong case, for France to provide airstrips and homes for strike aircraft.

In particular, there is pressure on Paris to house three squadrons of F16 fighters, which are due to leave Spain by 1992. France is unwilling to re-enter the military command or to do anything which would look as though it were doing so.

President Mitterrand, like President Gorbachev, would not like to see the US withdraw wholly from Europe. But the French are also determined that the US should not have excessive European power by reforming Nato, as Paris sees it, too closely to its postwar pattern.

These important considerations of protecting the US position in a new balance of power far outweigh the importance of arms control from President Bush's viewpoint. With Mr Baker, the arch-negotiator, at his side, he is certain to want to grab whatever arms-cutting deals he can while Mr Gorbachev remains in power. Some of those deals are likely to be risky, to put it at its mildest, to traditional US interests in matching Soviet nuclear strike potential.

But arms control is no longer the oil needed to get the diplomatic process moving. Europe is moving of its own accord. When that happened in the 19th century, Prince Metternich could use dynastic marriages and downright deception to move affairs his way. In the late 20th century, neither of these plays of diplomacy is quite as easy to engineer as it once was.



An Armenian sniper, his rifle at the ready, sheltering in a doorway in Yerevan. The picture was taken from an Armenian television report of the clashes in which 22 people died

Superpowers clear air traffic block

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN AGREEMENT which could triple commercial air traffic between the US and the Soviet Union is expected to be signed during this week's summit in Washington after weekend negotiations removed the last big sticking point.

The agreement will allow up to six more American airlines to operate regular services as well as a second Soviet airline, if one is formed. At present only Pan Am and Aeroflot fly between the two countries.

It will also lead to services

between cities such as Anchorage, Chicago, San Francisco and Miami in the US, and Kiev, Minsk, Magadan, Khabarovsk, Tbilisi and Riga in the Soviet Union.

Currently services are limited to Washington, New York, Moscow and Leningrad. In addition, at least 100 transatlantic charter flights would be permitted each year, and charters across the Pacific would be encouraged.

The final obstacle to an agreement was the percentage

of American airline tickets that could be purchased in rubles. The US, wanting to maximize ticket sales to Soviet citizens without access to hard currencies, originally pressed for 15 per cent, and the Soviet side for 2 per cent.

In weekend talks, the two teams ended months of haggling by agreeing on 8.75 per cent. Aeroflot, acting as agent, will give the American carriers dollars for the rubles, but the US airlines will have to buy rubles at the artificially high

official exchange rate to pay for Soviet aviation services such as refuelling.

Travel between the two countries has expanded dramatically since Mr Gorbachev came to power, and is expected to grow still further as the Soviet Union eases restrictions. Between 1987 and 1989, the number of Soviet visitors to the US increased nearly five times to 60,000 a year, and American visitors to the Soviet Union nearly quadrupled to 136,210.

Moscow warned by Howe on EC

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SIR GEOFFREY Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister, warned yesterday that the Soviet Union could find itself excluded from the new European security and economic structures unless it completes its transition to become a free market democracy.

After the virtual collapse of the Warsaw Pact and Comecon, the East European trading system, East European countries have been strengthening their links with the European Community. Moscow has called for a new security system based on ending the former Cold War alliances.

But Sir Geoffrey, in a speech at St Gallen, Switzerland, envisaged the possibility that Moscow could be left out of both aspects of the new order. "The goal of one Europe will remain beyond our reach unless and until the Soviet Union's present evolution reaches a successful conclusion," he said. "There will always be at least two Europes so long as a Soviet threat haunts the West."

He said the aim should be a single Europe "united in freedom", with the EC at its hub and other nations linked to it. There was no reason to rule out the possibility of East European countries joining the EC. However, it would take a long time.

But Sir Geoffrey said the nature of the new European security system would depend on whether the Soviet Union became fully democratic.

"The capacity and confidence of democratic Europe to work with an authoritarian Soviet Union would always be limited. Much depends on... whether the (Soviet) system advances towards Western liberalism or regresses into a more traditional Soviet regime." The new security system would be "immeasurably stronger" if it could include the Soviet Union as a free-market democracy, but this remained some distance away.

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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

Nato idea rejected by Bonn

From REUTER IN STRAUSBERG

WEST Germany yesterday rejected a Soviet proposal that a united Germany could be a political Nato member outside the military command, but said the idea showed Moscow was moving in the right direction.

"I do not see this as the solution we are seeking on this matter," said Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, after the first visit to East Germany's Disarmament and Defence Ministry by a Bonn minister.

"It is remarkable that the Soviet President is now beginning to concern himself in public with the prerequisites for (German) Nato membership," he told a news conference here.

Last Friday, President Gorbachev raised the possibility that Germany could belong to Nato's political organization if it stayed outside its military command, in the same way as France.

"We, the federal government, believe this formula should not be the end result," Herr Stoltenberg said. Western powers want Germany to be a Nato member.

Herr Stoltenberg held more than two hours of talks with Herr Rainer Eppelmann, East Germany's Disarmament and Defence Minister. It was their second formal meeting since an initial encounter on April 27. The West German flag flew alongside East Germany's at the ministry, a former Luftwaffe installation.

Herr Eppelmann said he proposed a similar idea to President Gorbachev's Nato suggestion soon after taking office last month.

Lafontaine urges unity treaty to be opposed

From ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

HERR Oskar Lafontaine, the West German Social Democratic candidate for the post of chancellor, threw himself back into the political fray yesterday by declaring his strong opposition so far to the pace and manner of the unity process. He urged his divided party to reject the ratification of the state treaty signed last week by the two Germanies.

In his first interview since an assassination attempt last month nearly cost him his life, Herr Lafontaine told the West German news magazine *Der Spiegel* that he considered the treaty to have been "sewn with a hot needle and seriously flawed. He said that the currency union between the two Germanies, scheduled for the beginning of July, was "a serious mistake" and warned of mass unemployment and chaos in East Germany in its wake.

The timing and content of

Herr Lafontaine's outburst has stunned the Social Democrats in Bonn and East Berlin. Herr Willy Brandt, the party's veteran honorary leader, has written to Herr Lafontaine, widely regarded as his political godson, urging him to drop his opposition to the treaty and Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party's current leader, and Herr Walter Momper, the Mayor of West Berlin, have also said that they will not follow his recommendation to oppose the ratification in the West German Parliament.

Herr Vogel has even threatened to resign if the party votes against the treaty. Herr Lafontaine has threatened to resign if it votes for it.

Just six months before the probable date of the West German elections, the party — which appeared to be benefiting from the national overdose of Herr Helmut Kohl, and West German Chancellor, and

fears of the West German population that his road to unity would lower their living standards, as well as a sympathy factor after the attack by a deranged woman on Herr Lafontaine — is more at odds with itself than with the ruling Christian Democrats.

Herr Richard Schröder, the leader of the SPD in the East, has dismissed opposition to the treaty as belated and damaging. He said: "We must beware of looking as if we begrudge the people of East Germany the Deutschmark."

East Germans largely preoccupied with planning their first trip to the Mediterranean or their first large consumer purchase after the introduction of the Deutschmark are unmoved by the wranglings in Bonn. Herr Lafontaine's strategy of predicting chaos and unemployment in the wake of currency union is out of step with the predominant feeling of *après nous le déluge*.

If his warnings have any appeal it is to the disgruntled lower-middle classes who resent the financial help doled out to the East and fear that reunification will endanger the prosperity of West Germany.

Meanwhile, their cousins in the East, accustomed over decades to putting practicalities before politics, are in an acquisitive frenzy of stocking up on goods at Ostmark prices before July 2. In the old-fashioned hairdressing salons of East Berlin where a perm is still listed as a "chemical wave formation", there are queues all day and the only appointments available are at 6am. In preparation for the cold winds of the market, clothes stores have slashed their prices.



Herr Lafontaine: Says pact is fundamentally flawed

Securitate's secret files set problem for Iliescu

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BUCHAREST

ONE problem facing the new Romanian Government when it takes office early next month will be what to do with the millions of old Securitate files containing often compromising information on both Romanians and foreign visitors to the country during the 24-year Ceausescu era.

Mr Christian Unteanu, spokesman for President Iliescu, said yesterday that the files were being kept under military guard at an unspecified location in Bucharest, and that no decision had been taken on them.

The files are the product of thousands of hours of covert microphone surveillance ordered by the paranoid Ceausescu against both suspected dissidents and members of the Community Party elite, as well as ordinary Romanians. Mr Unteanu said that in many cases there are five different files on a single individual, among them leading members of the ruling National Salvation Front which includes many former Communists. There are also understood to be reels of compromising films shot by secret cameras.

In addition to containing transcripts of bugged conversations, the files also contain reports submitted by the Securitate's vast network of 700,000 informers.

Mr Unteanu said: "If we publish the files as some people have suggested, there could literally be something worse than a civil war with friend turning against friend once they find out what are contained in them. We could only ever think of doing that when the internal situation was much quieter than now."

He said it was also impossible at present for the Front to order the incineration of the files. "You can imagine what the opposition would do if we were to order that. They would say that we were destroying information damaging to our own leadership."

The extent of the files remains unknown. But according to Mr Ion Pacepa, the former Romanian spy-master who defected to the United States, 1,000 officers were maintained by the Ceausescus solely for "testing the loyalty of their closest relatives and collaborators."

According to Mr Unteanu, a former television reporter, an unspecified number of the files were stolen in the early days of the uprising when revolutionaries stormed Securitate headquarters and other intelligence buildings.

He said that the whereabouts of many of the stolen files remain unknown, although some have been leaked to the Romanian press in an attempt to discredit certain leading politicians, including Mr Dumitru Mazilu, a former vice-president of the Front whose career was ruined when he was accused of being a former colonel in the Securitate and documents to that effect were published.

"These files are potentially dynamite and have been since they were discovered," said one European diplomat based in Bucharest.

The files have also attracted the attention of many foreign security services as they are believed to contain compromising information on a number of foreign political figures who visited Bucharest. Once here, their every move was monitored. They were also reportedly subjected to sexual lures.



A Japanese archer preparing to let his arrow fly during a Yabusame, a horse-mounted archery competition, in Paris. The event is part of the "Tokyo season" which is taking place in the French capital, featuring Japanese art exhibitions, jazz and Kabuki theatre

Ceausescu trial told of killings

FROM REUTER IN SIBIU

A ROMANIAN army general blamed the son of Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed dictator, yesterday for 89 killings in the central city of Sibiu during last December's popular uprising.

"He told me, 'We are in a state of war, not in a state of alarm. Let's finish it off,'" General Aurel Dragomir told a military tribunal trying Ceausescu's son Nicu on a charge of genocide.

"What did you understand by that?" Judge Major Doru Ursu asked the general.

"He meant the use of force," said the general, who was army commander in Sibiu where Mr Ceausescu was head of the local Communist Party. Mr Ceausescu, 38, denied on the first day of his trial on Saturday that he had ordered troops to open fire without warning on unarmed demonstrators during last December's bloody uprising. He faces a sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.

He told the five-man military tribunal that the order was issued in the belief that Romania was under foreign attack and that he never intended arms to be used against civilians.

Most of the 89 killed in Sibiu were civilians shot after Mr Ceausescu fled to Bucharest on December 22, the day his father was deposed. The general, testifying on the second day of the trial, spent four hours on the witness stand.

Mr Ceausescu sat slumped in the dock taking notes without visible emotion.

UK faces cuts in diplomatic staff

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CUTS IN Britain's diplomatic service are being considered under a Foreign Office internal review prompted by a staffing crisis and the need to give more attention to Eastern Europe.

The review marks an acceleration of cuts that have been under way for many years. In 1968-1969, the diplomatic service had 8,140 people in 243 embassies and consulates. By 1988-1989, this had dropped to 6,568 in 208 postings, cuts of 19 and 14 per cent respectively.

At the same time, the number of countries increased from 136 to 165. This was achieved by lower staffing levels, making personnel work harder, and closing consulates while opening embassies.

The Foreign Office budget has dropped by 3 per cent in real terms over the last three years, though it has increased by 7 per cent in cash terms to £393 million. Many foreign secretaries have tried to cut entertaining costs.

Mr David Howell, chairman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, said yesterday that it had heard evidence on the staffing crisis from Sir Patrick Wright, head of the Diplomatic Service. "We heard that the staffing situation was very disappointing and they were having difficulty in filling posts. They were unable to let people go on language courses because they could not be spared," he said.

Low civil service salaries have reduced the glamour once attached to a Foreign Office career. It recently tried to project a more modern image by distributing a glossy

Japan mission to boost EC links

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

twice-yearly meetings between the US Administration and the commission.

The two ministers, accompanied by top economic officials, will meet M Delors, President of the commission, Mr Frans Andriessen, the External Relations Commissioner, and other members of the commission. Trade will be one of the key topics, though the vexed issue of Japanese car imports into the EC will be touched on only briefly, as the Europeans still have not yet agreed a common position.

Investment flows between Japan and the EC will also be raised. These are uneven at present. At the end of March last year Japanese investment in the EC was \$30.164 billion (£17.8 billion), whereas community investment in Japan was only \$3.013 billion. Japanese investment in Britain, at \$10.55 billion, was double that in any other EC country.

One issue sure to be discussed is the possibility of putting relations on a treaty basis. The same idea has been mooted in EC relations with the United States.

Walesa strategy ends rail strike

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

AFTER a stormy negotiating session Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, yesterday persuaded Poland's striking railwaymen to return to work, extracting the Solidarity-led Government from its worst crisis.

The workers have agreed to suspend strike action until June 13 in time for a settlement. Train services returned to normal and coal supplies, blocked by the strike, began to arrive at factories. Mr Walesa who had been under heavy criticism for disloyalty to Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Prime Minister, has bolstered his reputation as a man who can get the Government out of a tight squeeze.

His strategy was to divide the protesters. An earlier trip to Slupsk, the centre of the strike, earned him only a rebuff, but some of the strikers grasped that without Mr Walesa's support, their protest was doomed. Mr Walesa was invited back and arrived shortly after 1 am on Monday.

The Solidarity chairman said that all of the railway workers' demands — higher wages and a purge of the railway administration — were justified. "But the Government must be given time, and during that time the trains should be running. If the Government does not show respect for your demands, then I will strike with you — but in a legal, not a wildcat strike like this."

Some of the workers, especially those who are not Solidarity members, accused Mr Walesa of artificially politicizing the strike. Mr Walesa, in turn, told the strikers that they were ignoring the basic economic realities of Poland. If the railway workers' wage claims were granted it would ignite demands from every other industrial group in Poland and the unpopular, finely balanced IMF-sponsored government programme would collapse.

The Government will probably agree to some slight wage increases over the next week and to granting the pay suspended during the strike.

Mr Walesa's actions were prompted not only by the need to save the Government but also to protect Solidarity from rival trade unions.

The Government was downcast yesterday as the strike had overshadowed the Sunday local council elections, contributing to a low turnout — some 42 per cent.

Thousands flee Cuban flood threat

HAVANA — Cuban authorities evacuated 6,000 people from their homes in central Cuba yesterday as torrential rain threatened to flood the biggest reservoir in the island.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported that four days of heavy rain had filled the Zaza reservoir, with a capacity of a billion cubic metres, situated near the city of Sancti Spiritus, 230 miles east of Havana.

The rains damaged more than 200 houses and a cement factory in Sancti Spiritus province. Farmers moved 20,000 cattle and other livestock to higher ground to escape floodwaters. No casualties were reported. (Reuters)

Menem hurt

Buenos Aires — President Menem of Argentina is reported to have broken his arm when he fell off a motorcycle near Buenos Aires, but the presidential palace refused to confirm the report. Señor Menem, aged 60, regularly pilots planes and helicopters, races speedboats and plays football and basketball. (AFP)

Spitak tremor

Moscow — A tremor hit the Armenian town of Spitak, which was razed to the ground by an earthquake in 1988, but no one was hurt. (Reuters)

Train crash

Lisbon — An elderly woman was killed and scores of people were injured when a Lisbon commuter train collided with another at rush hour. (Reuters)

Governor goes

Peking — Mr Doje Cering, aged 52, an Tibetan who has been China's governor in Tibet since 1986, has resigned for health reasons and will be transferred to a central government ministry. (Reuters)

Swazi arrests

Mbabane — Police in Swaziland said that they were holding three white South African men after the alleged kidnapping last week of Mr Michael Dube, of Manzini, a Swazi citizen. (Reuters)

Family killed

Boston — An immigrant Irish couple, their three young daughters, and a visitor at their wooden home were killed in the worst domestic fire in the Massachusetts city since 1972. (AP)

Belgrade fear of civil war

FROM REUTER IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT Jovic of Yugoslavia called yesterday for a new constitution, saying it would help stabilize the country and prevent civil war.

In a state-of-the-union speech to parliament two weeks after taking office, Mr Jovic painted a picture of nationwide chaos and said the Balkan federation could explode into violence and tear itself apart. He plans to organize talks enabling the six republics to settle their differences, and outlined 13 measures to help prevent nationalism and conflict, increasing between Yugoslavia's many ethnic groups. But he dismissed fears that he would

impose a state of emergency or annul the results of free elections which have ended 45 years of Communist rule in the wealthy and relatively Westernised republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

The Yugoslav Constitution does not specifically provide for the polls held by the two republics, and Mr Jovic has made clear that he believes they are pushing the country towards disintegration. "Violations of the Constitution and law have reached such proportions that they threaten certain vital functions of the state and bring into question the realization of the social reforms we have begun," Mr

Jovic told parliament. He declared: "The coming to power of extreme right-wing and revanchist forces would create great difficulties. This could lead to civil war and open the possibility of foreign military intervention."

He said parliament should adopt plans by the Government of Mr Ante Markovic, the Prime Minister, to amend the Constitution and then draw up a new one.

Mr Jovic's remarks echoed speeches by Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the populist Communist leader in Serbia, the biggest republic, who opposes any weakening of federal power.

Bookmaker bets on Prague winner

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

WHILE the free-market reforms intended to put Czechoslovakia on the road to prosperity are in limbo, a Czechoslovak entrepreneur is trying to get capitalism going on his own.

In a seedy, covered passage just off Wenceslas Square here, old men and young couples queue outside Mr Michal Horacek's first private betting shop since the Communist coup in 1948.

Selling between 1,000 and 1,500 tickets a day, the Fortuna betting shop takes in more than 200,000 crowns (about £4,750) daily.

Fortuna has taken bets on the elections in Romania. "Most people wrote up Iliescu as their favourite, even though the odds were fairly low, mostly because the situation was still a novelty for our people. They are not really

familiar with elections, and they do not know how to handicap them," said the shop's manager, Mr Petr Bouma, who got by on "a little of this and a little of that" before the revolution.

Next, Fortuna will take bets on the German elections. "The odds there will be very hard to calculate, but we take bets on anything that moves."

However, the firm will not take bets on Czechoslovak politics. "We feel votes could be influenced by the way people bet," Mr Bouma said.

The fast-talking Mr Horacek, a former journalist, author and lyricist, made his mark when with Michael Kocab, a rock musician, he helped to mediate a compromise between Civil Forum and the Communists during the "Velvet Revolution" last November. Now he is embarked on a capitalist mission.

"The betting shop is a great way for Czechs to accumulate capital, and it is a morale booster for capitalism," he said, fingering his thin leather necktie. "Unless we have capital we cannot compete with the Japanese and the people from Atlanta, Georgia, and Canada. Whoever comes, the Japanese or whoever, if we do not have capital they will buy everything."

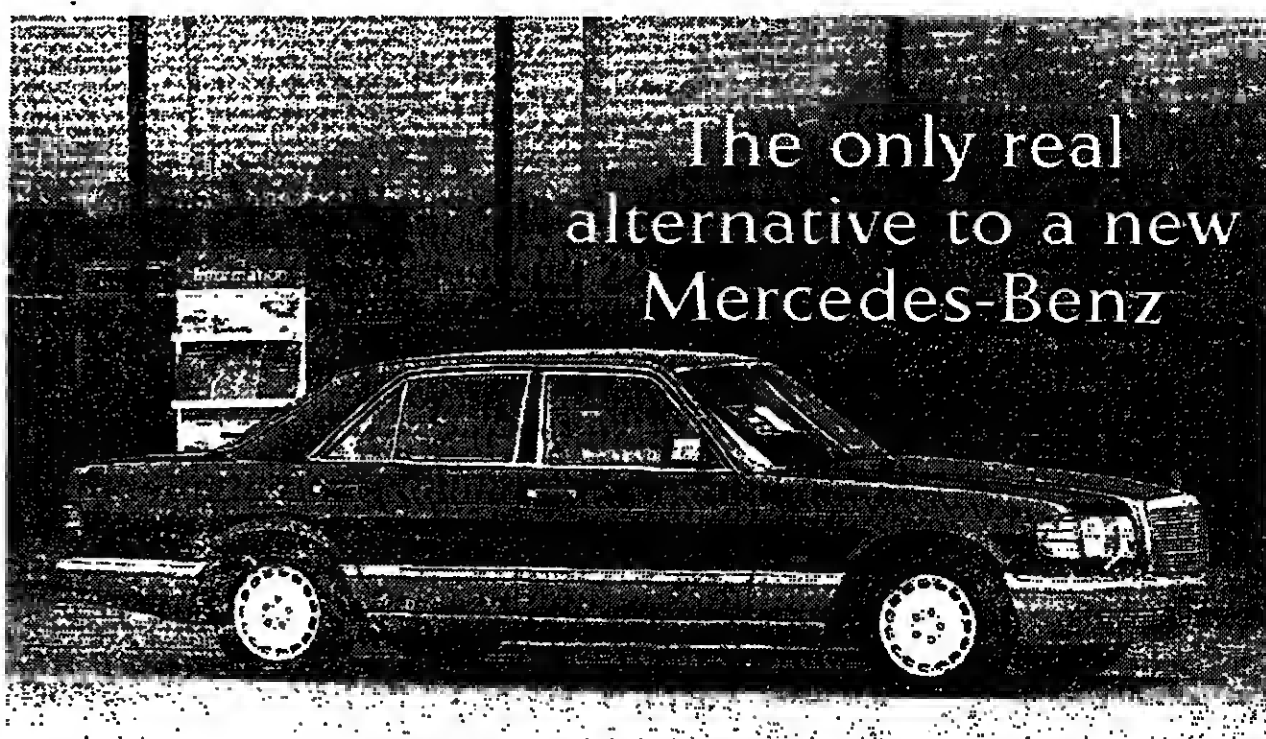
Mr Horacek's betting shop is only a vehicle to much bigger projects. "Do not mistake me for a philanthropist. I just want to be rich and make money." He is not short of money-making schemes: he is assembling a network of billboards to let to foreign advertisers, and plans to start a low-priced car rental network and a chain of photocopy shops.

But castles are his biggest project. "We have got to save

the castles," Mr Horacek said. He explained that scores of old Czechoslovak chateaux were being used as farm buildings and garages, and needed a little repair before they could be leased to foreign companies as European headquarters.

"Why should we sell out our history to someone from Yokohama? We could lease it to these people for 25 years and make more money."

Mr Horacek also plans to expand the betting shops, with at least a dozen in 10 key cities. "It is a fantastic deal. We will convert a bunch of old buses into mobile betting shops and take them around to major sporting events. We will have a big sign on the top of the bus, like a Coke sign. All these things are shown for hours, live, on television, and you notice how small the cars are. Our big bus will really stand out."



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a used car. And you'll be buying a history money. You'll be able to measure your

of innovative safety engineering that satisfaction in years.

Allies with no enemy

Raymond Plant

Recently I have spent some time discussing the future of European security with a number of people directly concerned. Among them was Oleg Grinevsky, who was once a student in my department at Southampton University and is now the Soviet ambassador to the Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe. I also spoke to a senior adviser on nuclear matters in East Germany, to an SPD member of the Volkskammer who has special responsibilities in the nuclear and disarmament fields, and to a senior defence expert from West Germany.

All are naturally concerned with the reunification of Germany and its impact on European security. They believe that the West lacks the vision to bring about a new security regime in Europe, and are worried that a crucial opportunity may be lost. The issues at stake concern the terms of German reunification and whether the new Germany should become a member of Nato. One of the main issues is the size of the army if the Bundeswehr and the East German forces are merged. To incorporate this merged army into Nato would represent a significant transfer of military power from East to West, at a time when the Warsaw Pact has all but collapsed, as was recognized at the highest level in Nato last week. So it is not surprising that the conventional force reduction talks in Vienna are stalling on the issue of reunification, for they were predicated on the existence of two countervailing military forces.

It can be argued that in these circumstances Nato is bound to change and that a united Germany would not threaten the East if it joined such a changed organization; but the future role of Nato is unclear, and the Soviet view is that it is being asked to buy a pig in a poke.

Various solutions have been offered. Recently it has been suggested that West Germany should be prepared to meet the costs of keeping Soviet forces on the territory of the old East Germany for a transitional period—a proposal which would surpass all the unexpected and momentous events in Europe during the past 12 months.

On the Soviet side it is suggested that the size of German forces should be limited; but commentators have said this is incompatible with national sovereignty and reminiscent of the Versailles Treaty. Any future European security system, however, is likely to involve agreements on national force limitations.

The hard-headed will say that a sovereign state must be allowed to join the alliance of its choice and have the armed forces it wishes,

however tough this may be on the Soviet Union; but if such an attitude were to prevail, it would constitute a major diplomatic defeat for the Soviet Union, perhaps making the army more even more suspicious of Germany than they already are. Diplomatic defeat, army disaffection and public concern would do nothing for the stability of Mr Gorbachev, whose government is our best hope of a better Europe.

My friends think one of the best signals the West can give is to change the Nato strategy. The hardline approach within Nato is that the Russians have nothing to lose from the collapse of the Warsaw Pact as a military alliance, it can be argued that Nato should commit itself to, say, a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons.

In the past such an undertaking has been resisted because it was thought that Nato could respond to an attack by superior conventional forces only by limited use of nuclear weapons. Now, however, it must be highly unlikely that the Soviet Union could mount such an attack, least of all so quickly as to necessitate a nuclear response. A greater commitment to a conventional forces strategy and an undertaking not to use nuclear weapons first might well sugar the pill of the entry of the new Germany into Nato.

In the long term, though, Nato's role in Europe will have to be considered. Is Nato expected to continue to exist alongside a new security order, or will that new order grow out of Nato? Hungary, which has talked of joining Nato, seems to believe the new order will grow out of Nato.

But what, then, will be its basis? Most alliances are based upon a clearly perceived threat. If the threat from the Soviet Union has decreased, we face the novel task of building an alliance without a clear potential enemy.

If it is to persist, an alliance needs a clear basis, and I see only two options for Nato. One is for it to become a regional alliance representing the security interests of a particular group of countries in Western Europe, which might throw the membership of the US into question. The other is for it to have an ideological basis, to become a league of democratic states. But this might not make a sensible military grouping. If the future of Nato were conceived in this way, the Soviet Union might become a plausible member. Several Soviet diplomats now claim to have asked the general secretary of Nato about the possibility of joining; perhaps we shall find that they were not joking.

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

I may enrol in RADA when I get home. Nothing major, you understand, none of that speaking from the diaphragm stuff, or how to get the audience on your side when poking your eyes out. Nor is milking maximum yuks from hobbling through french windows with my trousers down my ambition.

What I am after is a crash course in thespian trimmings. I need a convincing yawn, an eye-catching stretch, a fetching smirk, an authentic lol. What might be called interesting sitting. I do not need the walk. I have the walk. Admittedly, it owes not a little to John Wayne, but it is none the worse for that, and, after all, someone has to pick up the fallen torch. Yesterday, I did his slow turn. It straight out of *The Fenchers*. How could I not? I was framed in an archway, with the sun behind me. I kinked a hip, dropped a shoulder, turned, and ambled into the sunlight. It will be on your screens any day now. Try to catch it, if you live in Düsseldorf.

The director was an extremely nice chap. As a humble extra, I don't often meet my directors, but this one gave me his card. No fee, mind, but these are early days, and it was, after all, a pretty informal commission. Shall I get out of the way, I said (in French this was an international co-production), and he said, non, non, non—indeed, would I mind walking through the archway, slowly, if this did not derange me? I am not deranged at all, I replied, and I did the thing with the hip and the shoulder, and it was a winner. You could tell that, because he made an O with his thumb and forefinger. No retakes. As I said, when it comes to the walk, I am a natural.

The sit is immeasurably trickier. I was in three other major movies yesterday—two Japanese, one American—and I had to stay in my chair, at the cafe table, in the corner of the Cathedral Square in Venice. It is an extremely picturesque corner of the old town, which is why it is extremely pictured. You cannot sit there for two minutes without a tourist pottering through with his camcorder on his shoulder, often jabbering excitedly into its integral mike. When I am down here, as I am this week, I am in the square

most mornings, same cafe, same table. I arrive around 11 am to get the papers, and a grand express, and a shot of something to scour the pipes. Now it just so happens that in order to get the best shot of the square, you have to include me in it. In the old days of snap-shooting and silent cine, this was a role so minor as to be irrelevant; indeed, dispensable. Photo of medieval square, bloke reading *Times* in corner, you either keep him in for the human touch or you crop him out. Similarly, with the old 8mm, if the bloke suddenly embarked upon some mood-reducing activity, such as picking his nose or slapping at a wasp with the Business section, you could, when you got back to Yokohama, edit him out.

But the camcorder has changed all that. Editing videotape is an exceedingly difficult business. Monkey see, monkey shoot, monkey more or less stuck with result. Suddenly, a new incumbency is placed upon the unwitting actor. He can make or break this movie. When the director is back home, about to premiere *Herr Inszenier Müller Fahrt Nach Frankreich* to a rapt neighbourhood audience, he may not want their attention distracted. He may not want his fascinating commentary on Romanesque facades interrupted by a query from the floor regarding the dingbat in the straw hat who has knocked his calvados into his trousers and begun shouting at God.

Look how I upset the first lap yesterday. As his lens peered through me, I raised my glass in cheery salutation. He stepped back from his tripod and glared furiously. Had he been remarking *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, one felt, he would have had me in the tin outhouse in less time than it takes to tell. In consequence, I sat stone-faced for his compatriot. For the cheery American, however, I raised my sombrero. He will be able to tell the folks back home that I am a local character. Cézanne's illegitimate grandson, perhaps. His local Rotary will be knocked out.

Which is why I need RADA, if I am to make something of myself. A Donald Sinden eyebrow, an Anthony Sher eye, a Derek Jacobi pout, can take you right to the top, in this business.

As the Soviet threat recedes, Conor Cruise O'Brien sees US support diminishing

Israel, victim of the East-West thaw

Shimon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party, said last week that never in its history had his country "been so isolated as it is now". That is not quite true. Israel is indeed isolated, as the UN Security Council meeting in Geneva illustrated, but it has been more so. Israel's greatest isolation came in November 1956, in the aftermath of the Suez war. While Britain and France were agreeing to withdraw from Egyptian territory, the Israeli government of David Ben Gurion tried to hold on to its conquest, Sinai, thereby incurring the simultaneous wrath of both superpowers. Marshal Bulganin, brandishing the Soviet Union's newly acquired missiles, sent Israel a note saying its action "places in question the very existence of Israel as a state". That was on November 5. The following day, the American ambassador in Paris told the French government that a Soviet attack on Britain and France would lead to US retaliation. Israel's decision-makers are said to have noted "the conspicuous omission of Israel". And well they might.

Yet while Israel's isolation then was far more dramatic than at

present, there is a sense in which Mr Peres is probably right. Its isolation then was terrifyingly acute, but did not last long. Its present isolation, though less spectacular, may prove more serious in the middle and long term.

The Sinai crisis was resolved by Israel's withdrawal in 1957. The following year, events in the Arab world broke Israel's isolation. On July 14, 1958, the Baghdad Pact, and its local signatories, were torn to pieces in the streets of Baghdad. The idea of a Western alliance with the Arab world had proved to be a mirage. American political and military planners began to look towards Israel. A *de facto* alliance between the United States and Israel came about in 1970, and has endured to this day.

But now it is fading. That is the most serious aspect of Israel's deepening isolation in 1990. The loosening of the ties between Israel and America is not to be attributed to the *intifada*, although that certainly has not helped. The trouble goes much deeper. It derives from the demise of the Soviet Union as a global power.

In its immediate consequences, that demise may have appeared beneficial to Israel. It weakened

Syria, which is the leading Soviet client in the region and was also for a long time the Arab state most hostile to Israel (although in that respect it is now being overtaken by Iraq). But the secondary consequences are much more damaging to Israel than the primary consequences are beneficial. The secondary consequences consist mainly of the serious and probably permanent impairment of Israel's lifeline: its relationship with the United States.

The closeness of that relationship, over more than 20 years, was based on the beliefs that there was a serious Soviet threat to the region, that America's sole ally there was Israel, and that it was therefore in America's interest to help Israel, enabling it to become the predominant military power in the region.

But if there is no longer any Soviet threat to the region, this whole structure collapses. Strategically speaking, America no longer needs Israel, and the consequences of this are bound to be felt by Israel, in a variety of ways.

This, it will be said, is all the more reason for Israel to make peace with its Arab neighbours by pulling out of the occupied territories, just as it pulled out of Sinai 33 years ago. That is an attractive idea, but it ignores some bleak realities. It is one thing to withdraw from a desert, leaving it as a barrier between you and your enemies; it is quite another to withdraw from territories adjacent to your capital city which are populated by your enemies.

Some may say that they will cease to be enemies if Israel withdraws and signs a peace treaty with them. But anyone who believes that has never talked to Palestinians in the territories or in Lebanon. Itinerant Palestinian representatives, who know what Westerners want to hear, talk about a Palestinian state living in peace with Israel; but any Palestinian villager will tell you that he will accept a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza only as a stage on the way to taking back all of Palestine. The hostility to the existence of the state of Israel is a fact of life in the region. If there were a Palestinian state, the brave young Palestinians who currently take on Israeli troops in the *intifada* would be carrying out guerrilla attacks across the Palestinian border, against targets 10 miles away in Tel Aviv. So

Israel is stuck in the territories, to its own misfortune and that of the Palestinians.

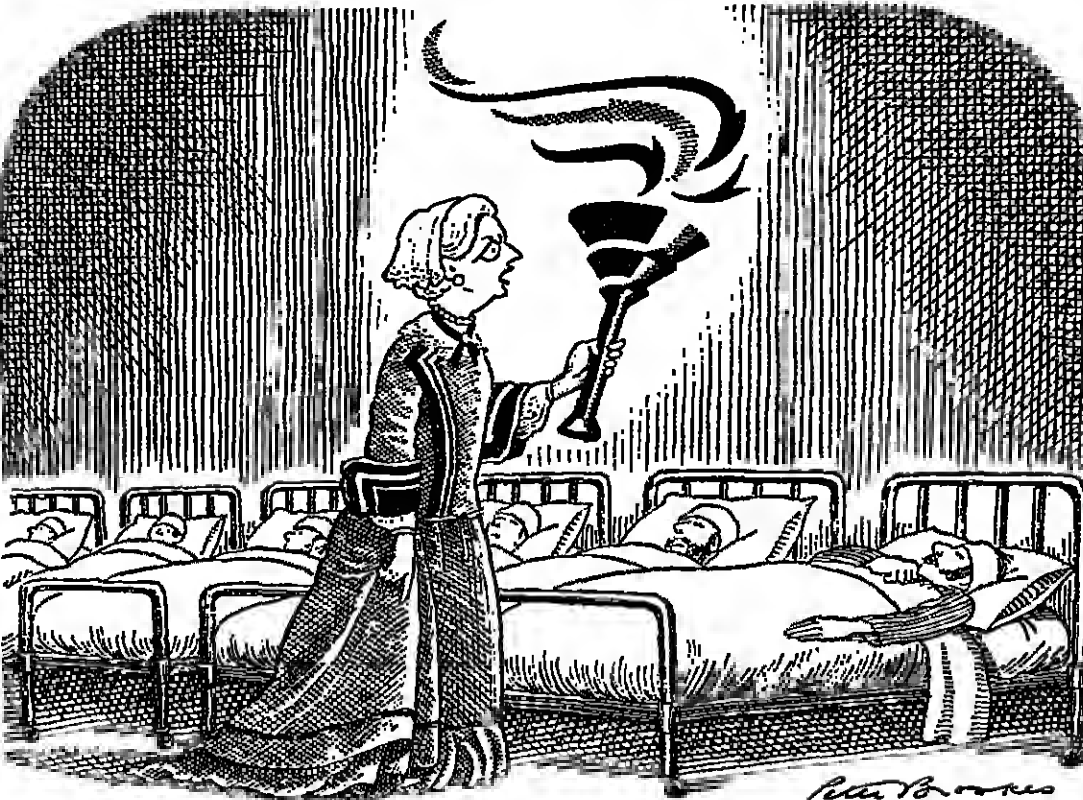
It might also be said that Israel is stuck in the Middle East, to its own misfortune and that of its neighbours. What caused it to be stuck there is European anti-Semitism, which is now more active than at any time since the Second World War. It again manifested itself last week in the desecration of Jewish graveyards.

Russian anti-Semitism—the force which created Zionism—is now causing a great wave of new migration to Israel. Many of the emigrants would probably prefer to go elsewhere (preferably the United States), but as in 1933-39, no country other than Israel is prepared to receive so many people. That is Israel's *raison d'être*, and while we criticize Israel, we should not forget this.

The present Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union may not be the last such wave as the tide of nationalism rises in one European country after another. Israel is a nation of refugees, primarily from Europe, and the refugees are still coming in. That is bad luck for the Arabs, but it is also bad luck for the Jews.

Tory compassion that would preserve the free market

Even with economic recovery, John Gray believes new policies are needed to win the next election



The Government's strategy for the next election is now clear: to appeal to the voters' economic self-interest by bringing down inflation swiftly and sharply to about half its current level, and interest rates with it. The strategy is founded on a vital truism of modern politics: that the primary task of any democratic government is to bring the electoral and the economic cycles into reasonable alignment. Failure to do so courts electoral disaster, since the single most important factor influencing voting behaviour, especially when it has become volatile, is the voter's perception of his present and foreseeable standard of living.

The success of market capitalism in the post-war world has depended on its ability to deliver growing prosperity to the mass of the population. If inflation and interest rates can be drastically reduced by the middle of next year, it is hard to see why Mrs Thatcher should not call a general election in autumn 1991, and stand a good chance of winning. Her prospects will be further enhanced if the Chancellor of the Exchequer can afford a good budget next spring.

A recovering economy, together with lower taxes, can only strengthen the instinctive suspicion of many voters that Labour cannot be trusted with the responsibility of managing the economy. But this is a high-risk strategy, vulnerable to shocks from the world economy. A global credit crunch would seriously endanger it, whether or not we go into the EMS exchange rate mechanism. If German interest rates go up because of the inflationary side-effects of reunification, if Japanese interest rates rise further to offset yen depreciation, and if repatriation of funds by Japanese investors forces the Federal Reserve Board to raise American interest rates, a swift reduction in our interest rates is unlikely.

There are also doubts about whether the Government has enough time to break the inflation/interest rate spiral in Britain. High interest rates feed inflation through excessive pay settlements, and because they have now indexed their expectations, savers will demand high real returns, exceeding inflation. Any jolt to the economy, whether external or domestic, could derail the present strategy and prove costly in electoral terms.

Yet even if there is no economic derailment, the present strategy is hazardous for deeper reasons. Mrs Thatcher has been in power for more than a decade. An election campaign which simply emphasizes her achievements and repeats the familiar rhetoric will not arouse the voters' enthusiasm. Rightly or wrongly, the electorate is fatigued and bored. As the fate of Winston Churchill in 1945 showed, it is folly to count on the country's gratitude, whatever achievements the government may have to its credit. A shift in policy is needed, to tap sources of support other than self-interest. Softening the edges of current policy—on the poll tax, for example—though necessary, is not enough. Fresh and innovative

new policies are required, focusing on areas that have been unduly neglected since the Tories took office.

If it is to have a future in this decade that matches its performance in the last, the Conservative Party must shed its image as the party of sheer self-aggrandisement. It must do so by producing a new policy agenda showing that it can improve the quality of life and meet the needs of the vulnerable.

Much of the new agenda could claim a Thatcherite inspiration, but for the Nineties it needs to link the economic liberalism of the free market with a liberal and compassionate approach to social policy. Four issues may be taken as examples.

Tax on savings remains biased against the small saver, who cannot afford to take the risks involved in seeking tax-free capital gains. A policy of impeccable Thatcherite credentials would be to abolish basic-rate taxation on all savings, so completing the welcome reforms of John Major's recent budget. Such a policy would do more than anything else to encourage a culture of thrift, and to counter the impression, not always ill-founded, that previous tax reform has most benefited those already well placed.

A second Thatcherite policy would be the extension of training vouchers, set at generous levels, to the long-term unemployed. The vouchers should be sufficient to enable these people to move to areas where housing costs are otherwise prohibitive. Such an active labour policy would help to prevent the growth of a de-skilled underclass that is alienated from the rest of society.

plus *The Times*, the only broadsheet to arrive in Aberdeen in time for the regular Brynmor Airways early morning flight, will be on sale soon after they plop through letterboxes in Fincley or Frinton. Now the bad news. The plane "went technical" yesterday morning, so the ground-breaking first delivery was delayed until lunchtime. But, insist the operators, today's *Times* should be on Unst's breakfast tables without a hitch, and so a hearty good morning to

involved in seeking tax-free capital gains. A policy of impeccable Thatcherite credentials would be to abolish basic-rate taxation on all savings, so completing the welcome reforms of John Major's recent budget. Such a policy would do more than anything else to encourage a culture of thrift, and to counter the impression, not always ill-founded, that previous tax reform has most benefited those already well placed.

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The deterioration of the urban environment cannot be reversed by market solutions alone. Market devices, such as road pricing, can help to reduce traffic congestion, but increased investment by government in the infrastructure of cities is an indispensable condition of an improved quality of life (and, for that matter, of economic health).

The stakes at the next election are high. If the Conservatives lose, we face a Labour administration whose economic competence is at best dubious, and a likely reversion to corporatism within the Tory party. Many of the achievements of the past decade might be irretrievably squandered. A new agenda is needed to avoid such a necrosis and to ensure a future in Britain for a conservatism that is committed not only to a free-market economy but to the use of the prosperity it generates to protect the dignity and well-being of the vulnerable and the quality of life of us all.

The author is a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

Will Sav take on Seb?

Multi-millionaire property tycoon Peter de Savary, whose interests range from Land's End to John o'Groats — his companies own both — is contemplating a new dimension to his diverse career: in the House of Commons. Quite how he can find the time to occupy the green leather benches is hard to see, but he has in his sights Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medalist and is to fight Falmouth and Cambourne for the Tories at the next election. Some locals are known to be resentful of Coe, believing that he has been imposed from outside, and de Savary has come under pressure to oppose him. He is very tempted.

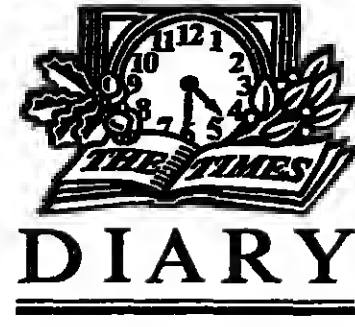
De Savary, who has £100 million invested in Cornwall and is spending a further £10 million turning Land's End into a major tourist attraction, says: "I can confirm I am thinking about standing as an independent candidate. My priority would be to ensure that the voice of Cornwall is heard again." He agrees that his political views are closer to those of the Conservative Party than any other, but he nevertheless fires an ominous warning: "I am surprised that Sebastian Coe has not dropped me a line, or telephoned me, to have a chat about his priorities for an area where I am one of the major employers. It's not enough for him to just pop down here for weekend events. He has to become part of the community." By comparison, de Savary's Cornish credentials are impressive. He has lived there for years

and one of his companies trades under the name Cornwall Trust. Coe must be hoping that de Savary, with four children, a stately home with its own chapel, 24 vintage cars, a multi-million pound business empire and an avid interest in sailing, will decide that the House of Commons would appear dull by comparison. If not, he will be up against competition as tough as that offered by Steve Cram and Steve Overt on the athletics track.

● If someone from *Friends of the Earth* knocks on your door asking for a donation — pay up. Members are being urged to attend special fund-raising courses which include sessions on stress management — and karate. "This has transformed canvassing from a chore to a worthwhile experience," says the FoE newsletter, *Earth Matters*. The reaction of those on whom the new techniques have been tried is not recorded.

Green goddesses

The greens — at least the females of the species — are adding a new twist to their unrelenting campaign against British farmers. They are swamping Country Partners, the upmarket marriage bureau set up essentially to provide farmers with wives. Heather Heber Percy, the director, says: "It is not something I deliberately promoted; it evolved naturally over the last year. There are a lot of very frightened women around wanting to meet a partner who cares about the environment." The registration form, printed in green ink, replaces the traditional dating service ques-



tions about star signs with inquiries about environmental issues, such as farmers' willingness to adopt organic practices. As the female greens close in, fewer farmers are registering — and those who remain on the books, fearing further attacks on their agrotechnical approach, are not ringing back for more introductions, says Percy. But the agency does not think it will lose all its farming clientele. "Farmers need wives desperately, as they can't afford to pay many labourers these days," she says.

Homing in on Unst

To begin with, the good news. Yesterday, for the first time, national newspapers were on sale on the day of publication in Britain's most northerly extremity, the island of Unst in the Shetlands. The 2,000 islanders — including those of neighbouring Fetlar and Yell — have hitherto formed their world view from the *Aberdeen Press* and *Journal* and copies of national newspapers brought up from Lerwick at least 24 hours out of date — and even more in inclement weather. But from yesterday, several tabloids

anyone reading us in those northerly climes. Unfortunately, they will not include the island's only newspaper distributor, James Spence. "I get everything I need to know from the weekly *Shetland Times*," he says. And, clearly referring to the papers with small pages and large headlines, Sandy Macaulay, a salmon farmer on Unst's northernmost tip, wonders whether the sale of "readily available garbage" represented an advance for civilization. But he promises to look at *The Times*, "to see what I've been missing".

I was mad yesterday... my *Times* was late



Pulling power

Since disappointing ticket sales for Eton's 550th anniversary were reported here in April, there has been a surge of interest. OEs and parents of current pupils, who were not initially invited to the celebratory supper, have swollen the number to more than 5,000, with another 1,000 due for the fireworks and dance that follow. Old boys from all walks of life will be present, including such unlikely figures as that everlasting hippy, Viscount Weymouth. "I wasn't going to go, but I discovered everyone else was going, and I didn't want to be left out," says the anti-establishment heir of the Marquis of Bath, who insisted on sending his own children to the local comprehensive. Weymouth has been further honoured by an invitation to display his eccentric Longleat murals in the art school in an exhibition entitled 20th Century Old Etonian Artists.

The school office, inundated with sartorial inquiries, has been reassuring old boys anxious not to let the side down that there is no need to arrive in mid-afternoon in black tie. "This isn't Glynde-bourne," says John Butterwick, the organizer. "Everyone should wear a blazer or suit." Whatever would the founding fathers say?

● Mother Shipton prophesied that the world would end in 1991, which may explain why the present owner of her "cave, petrifying well and prophesy house" at Knaresborough in Yorkshire has just advertised it for sale in *The Financial Times* for £380,000. What does he intend to spend the proceeds on — a spaceship?



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

MURDER IN ROERMOND

That the murder of two young Australians in Holland turns out to have been an IRA mistake underlines the casual brutality of the crime. It also points to the urgent need for further changes in the registration of service-memo's vehicles on the continent.

British Forces Germany, whose largest component is the British Army of the Rhine, were given their own number-plates 39 years ago, partly as a convenience for the West German authorities, who could easily distinguish between those who should or should not have paid their car tax. The idea seemed good at the time, and remained so until the late 1970s when the Provisional IRA, which had lost some of the initiative in Ulster, extended its campaign to mainland Europe. After first concentrating on army bases, it eventually turned to softer targets as security on the camps themselves was tightened.

The vulnerability of servicemen in cars, away from the protective shield of their barracks, was cruelly exposed nearly two years ago. An army warrant officer was shot dead while stationary at traffic lights in Ostend before boarding the ferry to go home on leave. Though wearing civilian clothes and many miles from the nearest British base, he was all too clearly identifiable as a serviceman by the distinctive BFG number-plate on his car.

This prompted the Ministry of Defence to make changes. It scrapped the forces' registration system and, after urgent consultations with West Germany, ruled that cars should in future bear British number-plates. A soldier and his family in West Germany would thus, at first sight, look like ordinary British tourists on holiday. This had two effects from a security point of view. In the first place it simply helped to confuse the gunmen. Secondly it forced them back to the more vigilant, better policed garrison towns to seek their targets.

Since then the IRA has made three colossal blunders. Last September it killed a soldier's wife in Dortmund after mistaking her for a member of the armed forces. A month later it murdered an airman and his baby. The third

was the slaughter at the weekend of two young men in the Dutch town of Roermond, which the IRA subsequently confirmed, without apology, as another case of mistaken identity.

This is cold comfort to their families. Clinically analysed this operational error might be seen as an IRA self-inflicted wound which should further unite the civilized world against it. None the less the Ministry of Defence could and should do more to make life still more difficult for the gunmen.

They should switch to West German registration. This has previously been rejected because it would create legal problems in West Germany — not the strongest of arguments. A second reason is that it would make servicemen seem more not less conspicuous in their cars: as nearly all the 95,000 private vehicles are right-hand drive they would stand out like sore thumbs in German car parks.

This is almost equally unconvincing. At present the easily identified British number-plate immediately attracts IRA attention. A German car with a right-hand drive would surely be more difficult to spot. The determined terrorist will always find a way, and British soldiers are all too easily recognisable. But by fitting all their cars with local plates the ministry would help them blend into the landscape of North Germany.

Whether the ministry should go further and forbid them to buy right-hand drive cars is a moot point. The purchase of a duty-free vehicle is one of the more popular perquisites of a West German posting. Some form of compensation could be offered — all such "perks" can in theory be bought out — but it could have a damaging impact on morale and would grant the IRA a minor victory.

This weekend's atrocity has proved that a change in vehicle registration works — to the extent that it confuses the Provisionals. But they are ruthless enough to risk hitting the wrong target. They should now be made to miss it altogether.

BURMA'S POLITICAL JUNGLE

The "Road to Socialism" down which the people of Burma have been driven by their military masters for the best part of thirty years has been spectacularly stony and ruinous. By September 1988 the country was teetering on the brink of civil war. There had been moods of political agitation, an indefinite general strike and defections from the armed forces. Rangoon Radio told its listeners to stand by for an important announcement. Four hours later President Saw Maung came on the air, misquoted Lord Acton and declared that the time had come for the Burma Socialist Programme Party to give up absolute power.

There was heady talk of elections within three months. Opposition politicians said they would believe that when they saw it. The general view at the time was that the Government was intent on conjuring an aura of legitimacy for itself and on wooing back the foreign aid that had been suspended after its suppression of the pro-democracy movement. Twenty months on, Burma finally went to the polls this weekend. Voters were offered a bewildering choice between 2,209 candidates representing 93 different parties. Although no conclusive figures are expected for some time, early results indicate that the National League for Democracy, the largest opposition party, could have victory within its grasp.

There had been little expectation that the elections would be either free or fair. The National League's leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has been under house arrest since last summer. She was not allowed to be a candidate, but was permitted to cast her vote in a sealed envelope. The military junta showed no interest in admitting the sort of circus of foreign observers that has been doing the rounds in Eastern Europe. A few dozen journalists and a handful of television crews were allowed in at the last minute, but they were barred from polling stations and forbidden to travel outside the capital.

Any politician who has ever achieved any degree of prominence in Burma has always claimed to be the legate of General Aung San, one of the fathers of the nation who led the struggle for independence. Daw Suu Kyi can

make the claim with more assurance than most because she happens to be his daughter; the "Aung San" factor has clearly been important to the opposition's success. What remains to be seen is how fully the military are prepared to let that success be translated into political power.

The NLD has been working on a new constitution, and the draft is thought to be based on one agreed between Daw Suu Kyi's father and the British in 1947, the year before independence. The Government has been putting it about that it will not be possible to form a Cabinet until a constitution is promulgated, and it is not clear whether the powers of the National Assembly elected at the weekend extend that far.

Martial law continues in force. NLD supporters sang and danced in their thousands outside party headquarters as the early results came in, but prudently dispersed before the hour of the curfew. Until Daw Suu Kyi is released from house arrest (and her colleague, the League's chairman, let out of jail), the opposition will be at a severe disadvantage and the conditions for an orderly transition will not exist.

The army has played a central role in Burmese politics ever since the Socialist Programme Party was formed, under Japanese tutelage, in 1942. The grouping which supported the military in this weekend's election, the National United Party, polled about a third of the votes, and it would be naive to think that it will undergo immediate mass conversion to the idea of multi-party democracy.

The evidence of this extraordinary election, however, is that this is what the 20 million strong Burmese electorate wishes to see. The State Law and Order Restoration Committee should respond by keeping the army in its barracks and by setting a timetable for the calling of the new assembly. Whatever its motives, the Committee has brought about, for the first time in thirty years, something approaching a test of the public will. It should now make clear that it will not use the divisions and inexperience of the opposition parties as an excuse for setting the results aside.

ANYTHING MEN CAN DO

As Tracy Edwards and her all-woman crew brought *Maiden* in to Southampton's Ocean Village yesterday, 10,000 well-wishers cheered them home. The acclaim was richly deserved. Their seamanship silenced many an old Cowes salt who wagged they would not make it through the Bay of Biscay. The skipper herself was chosen as Yachtsman of the Year, and *Maiden* came second in her class and finished 18th.

Altogether, this Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race has been a spectacle, an adventure and an international success: from the start last September, when around 30,000 people in 3,000 boats saw the 23 yachts set out from the Solent, to the welcome over the past few days for the exhausted finishers. This was the fifth race and the fastest: the winning speed of Peter Blake's New Zealand ketch *Steinlager 2* was 10.52 knots, compared with 7.82 knots by Chay Blyth's *Great Britain II* in 1973-74. That reflects advances in design as well as sailing techniques, and in the technology to search out the most favourable winds.

Blake dominated the race. He won all six stages, and his aggregate sailing time of 128 days for the 33,000 miles was a day-and-a-half ahead of his compatriot Grant Dalton. But in ahead of his compatriot Grant Dalton. But in true sporting fashion, other characters abounded: Lawrie Smith, skipper of the leading British challenger *Rothmans*, fought an uncompromising but ultimately losing battle against the New Zealanders; a crew of French postmen sailed *La Poste*; the Soviets were skippered for some of the journey by a skipper for some of the journey by a Pepsi-Cola; American and partly funded by Pepsi-Cola; two Swiss crews risked their own chances by diverting to rescue the crew of a Finnish boat.

Above all, though, there were Tracy Edwards and her crew on *Maiden*. Few sports are as arduous as round-the-world sailing, when the journey is conducted against the clock, strength, alertness and perseverance are needed all the more. If proof were still lacking that women can outface men in stamina and sheer guts, *Maiden* has provided it.

Like the America's Cup, the Round the World Race should now become an enduring success, and a less cantankerous one. The use of satellite communications has improved monitoring and reporting of the race; the organizers could plot each boat exactly, and the skippers could describe on the boat-to-base telephone the excitements and exasperations of life in the Roaring Forties and Screaming Fifties. Whitbread has already decided to repeat its sponsorship in 1993-94, and rather than having to be persuaded, towns are now queuing to be host ports.

The growth of yachting shows no sign of slowing. Only yesterday it was announced that 20 clubs from 15 countries, including Japan, the Soviet Union and Switzerland, had registered challenges to San Diego for the America's Cup. And all those craft, from sailboards and inflatable dinghies to sleek racers and powerboats, heading homewards on the roads last night were an indication that Lawrie Smith may be proved right. Last December, he forecast in *The Times* that by the year 2000 every third family in Britain might have a boat or a sailboard, just as they now do in New Zealand. By then, perhaps, this island nation may have produced a challenger fit to beat the Kiwis.

Tighter control of MoD sites

From the Chief Executive of the British Security Industry Association
Sir, For too long the Ministry of Defence has displayed an alarmingly relaxed attitude to the security of its bases and establishments. Only now is it looking at the consequences of the policy of using price as the major determining factor in its choice of security.

Contract prices which are paid to the bidders can only result in low pay to security guards and attendant cuts in training and supervision. As the House of Commons Defence Committee (report, May 23) points out, "the MoD are getting no more and no less than what they are paying for".

Many proposals have been offered to the Home Office for the introduction of licensing, and perhaps now that such an influential report also backs the demands, the Government will finally act and provide realistic legislation.

Access must be provided to police criminal records so that personal histories can be checked, and action is needed to remove the Ministry of Defence's demands for "instant guards". It is unrealistic for the MoD to expect fully-vetted personnel to be provided within time scales sometimes as short as a week.

The call to remove all private contractors from MoD and service establishments is ludicrous; as the report makes clear, the service provided by commercial security companies is "at least as good as could be expected".

The MoD police force is simply not the answer. Even if the problem of recruitment was quickly and dramatically eased, such armed forces could not provide all the access-control, gate-manning and patrolling duties. In many cases these are provided by the private security companies.

Until the Government introduces suitable legislation and the MoD offers a realistic rate for the job, the ministry will get only what it pays for. What it gets is frequently below what can be provided.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FLETCHER,
Chief Executive,
British Security Industry Association,
Security House,
Barbours Road, Worcester,
Bar 23.

English in Prague

From Mr Paul Flather
Sir, I am trying to run a placement scheme to provide English-language teaching in Czechoslovakia. So far I have placed five teachers in Prague schools for the next year and another batch of 20 names is being studied.

The British Council, overworked in Prague and in London, has been most helpful in giving advice, but a well-planned, long-term scheme backed by Foreign Office money is needed. The letter by Dr Roger Bowers (May 17), Controller of English Language and Literature at the British Council, is the first clear sign that this is in hand.

President Havel said in London recently that he wanted English to take over immediately from Russian as the second language in schools. The scheme with which I am involved is striving to meet an immediate demand to put English language teachers into Czech and Slovak schools by September, the start of the next academic year.

Ultimately, we must think in terms of helping to set up teacher-training colleges and an Open University, not least to help to retrain thousands of surplus Russian teachers.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FLATHER, (Trustee,
Ian H. Education Foundation),
24 Tantalum Road, SW12.

Waste in industry

From Dr A. R. Mitchell
Sir, What is most striking about the £22 billion spent annually on entertainment and travel by British industry (Special Report, May 18) is the 33 per cent reduction which could be achieved by "adopting a more professional approach". Such a sum could quadruple what we spend on the teaching costs of higher education without all the detrimental effects of loans and fees.

The full £22 billion is seven times British industry's 1985 investment in research and development and represents about £350 for each member of the population. There has to be a better alternative. All it takes is a few less first-class tickets, a few less five-star hotels, and an ordering of our national priorities.

Yours sincerely,
A. R. MITCHELL,
Brewers Cottage, 59 Brewhouse Hill,
Wheatthorpe, Hertfordshire.

Role of SDP

From Mrs Monica Howes
Sir, You carried an interview with Dr David Owen (May 24) on what he and/or the rump SDP may do in the next election. In the Bootle by-election on the same day the SDP candidate's vote was lower than that of the Monster Raving Loony Party (report, May 25). Whilst I acknowledge David Owen's undoubted political experience and personal charisma, it is not time that serious journalists paid the SDP attention in direct proportion to their support in the country? They have three Members of Parliament and a handful of local councillors.

Yours faithfully,
MONICA HOWES,
60 The Grove, Bedford.

Reassurance on cancer screening

From the President of the Royal College of Radiologists

Sir, Miss Nella Marcus (May 11) was disturbed by claims made by Mr Norman Dacey (May 2) that mammographic screening in the USA had induced an "epidemic" of breast cancers. There has been also an increased incidence of breast cancer in the UK.

We need to look at the differences between breast screening in the USA and in the UK. Mr Dacey's evidence is based on the recommendations of the American Cancer Society that a woman should have a baseline mammogram between the ages of 35 and 40, should have annual or biennial mammograms from age 40 to 49, and should have annual mammograms from age 50 onwards.

Further, mammography in the United States customarily involves two X-rays of each breast. In contrast the UK breast-screening programme, which started three years ago, based on the recommendations of the Forster report, provides mammography every three years for women aged 50 to 64 years and recommends the use of a single view of each breast. The radiation dose used is actually about one tenth of that quoted by Mr Dacey.

That said, we have to recognise that there is an unproven but theoretical possibility that mammography may induce some breast cancers. A detailed analysis of the potential hazard was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* in 1985. For every million women following the recommendations of the American Cancer Society, up to 700 breast cancers can be expected to be caused by the X-rays, a figure to be contrasted with 93,000

Letters to the Editor

"naturally-occurring" cases of breast cancer. The comparable figure for women screened three-yearly from the age of 50 to 64 would be a maximum of 30 cases of breast cancer induced by mammography. The risk of dying as a result of a mammogram equates to that of smoking one third of a cigarette.

Clearly an increased incidence of breast carcinoma in the UK can in no way be ascribed to mammography, since 15 years ago mammography was only available in a very few specialised centres. Nevertheless I recognise that women may be confused by being told that breast-cancer screening saves lives while also hearing that it could induce cancers which might not otherwise have occurred. The Forster working group considered the risk and concluded that

... on the evidence available, the magnitude of possible risk from low-dose mammography appears negligible, especially when compared to the substantial benefits that would result from early detection.

I hope that women will be reassured that the risk is only theoretical and, even if it does exist, is very small and is vastly outweighed by the benefits screening can offer in detecting many cases of breast cancer at an early stage, when treatment has the best chance of being successful. I encourage women to accept their invitations for breast screening when they arrive.

Yours etc.,
OSCAR CRAIG,
President,
The Royal College of Radiologists,
38 Portland Place, W1,
May 25.

Quarrying at Stowe

From Sir Ralph Verney

Sir, The Governors of Stowe School have always been acutely aware of the unique importance of the landscape setting of their magnificent building and it was my job, as chairman of their landscape committee for 20 years, to attempt to restore it as far as possible to the splendour of its completion in 1790.

This responsibility has now been courageously assumed by the National Trust, as described in the chairman's letter of May 15. The threat of gravel working within a few yards of its boundary could largely and needlessly destroy this admirable intention.

In 1972 the secretary of state set up an advisory committee, of which I had the honour to be chairman, to examine the supply and demand of aggregates for the construction industry. The membership was comprehensive, and our report, published in the spring of 1976, was unanimous. We said that "by the early 1990s almost all of the gravel-bearing land in the South-east which is not agriculturally valuable or environmentally precious will have been worked out", and we made proposals as to how this situation should be dealt with.

One of these was the creation of super-quarries, probably in granite deposits, for the production of

Computer hacking

From Mr Peter Sommer

Sir, The conviction of Nicholas Whiteley at Southwark Crown Court on May 24 following his various attacks on computers connected to the Janet network (report, May 25) appears to leave the Computer Misuse Bill, sponsored by Michael Colvin, MP, in a state of confusion.

The justification for the Bill, that English criminal law provides no remedies against computer vandalism, has been undercut. Moreover, section 3(6) of the Bill, in an attempt at legislative tidying up, now proposes to deny the authorities the future use in instances of computer vandalism of the Criminal Damage Act 1971, the very means by which the convictions against Whiteley were obtained.

The discussion about the various forms of computer hacking has been accompanied by a high level of moral panic and the result at Southwark should now be taken as an opportunity to reassess the role of the criminal law in this area.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SOMMER,
Virtual City Associates,
67 Mount View Road, N4,
May 25.

Buying British

From Professor Emeritus Noel Robertson

Sir, You report (May 22) that the Prime Minister, at the Chelsea Flower Show, urged the horticultural industry to reduce the balance-of-payments deficit by growing a greater proportion of our requirements at home. Whether it can be done by the industry without help remains a question.

It is still possible to shop at a garden centre and buy only British-produced plants. The same is not true of manufactured products for the non-gardening domestic market, where foreign competitors often dominate whole sectors. A private tally of replacements of household needs over the last seven years reveals no purchases which, in spite of strenuous efforts to "buy British", have not finally been chosen from imported material because of price, design, or quality.

The continuing negative balance of payments in UK trade with the rest of the world is probably the most worrying aspect of our economy at the moment, carrying with it, as it does, the seeds of eventual bankruptcy. May we now hope that Mrs Thatcher will encourage some measure of State-industry dialogue (even of eventual cooperation) to consider the appropriate strategy for introducing science and design-based innovation into areas of British production where it is currently absent, in a comprehensive rather than piecemeal fashion?

Yours faithfully,
NOEL ROBERTSON,
Woodend,
Juniper Bank,
Walkerburn, Peeblesshire,
May 22.

Knowing one's place

From Mrs Alison Christopher

Sir, Mr Peter Keys has explained (May 23) the difference between "moving" and "relocating". I always wonder why some, especially newly married, "reside" rather than "live" somewhere.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON CHRISTOPHER,
16 Marville Road, SW6,
May 23.

From Mr J. M. Carr

Sir, Hereabouts we neither move nor relocate. We fit.
Yours faithfully,
J. M. CARR,
Killandris,
Isle of Lismore,
Oban, Argyll,
May 24.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

HORIZONS

Detectives of the illustration world

Picture researcher Suzanne Bosman says one of the pleasures of her job is opening a book and seeing pictures that would not be there if she had not tracked them down. An even greater pleasure is seeing a picture she has chosen on the cover of a book.

Picture research is described by the Society of Picture Researchers and Editors (SPREd) as the art of finding the "right" picture for a project — be it for a book, magazine, newspaper, television programme, video or advertisement.

Only firms with major illustrated book projects and publishers of part-works employ staff picture researchers. Such firms also rely on a floating pool of freelancers. Martin Smith, picture editor for the *Reader's Digest* booklist, says the demand for picture researchers in any publishing house is variable because if the number of books produced is constant, the demand for pictures is not.

Suzanne Bosman read art history at Cambridge, and took a postgraduate degree at the Courauld Institute. On leaving, she looked for an occupation which would combine an active job with research. "I wanted to be able to use my academic qualifications and at the same time work in a commercial environment," she says.

Picture researchers are able to combine an academic career with an active role in the commercial sector. Joan Venner looks at how to get a start in this field

Her first job was as a dogsbody with a firm of printers. Bilingual in French and English, and having studied Italian, she also undertook some translation.

Then she saw an advertisement for a picture researcher with Thames & Hudson, whose list covers everything to do with the arts, and was one of two successful applicants out of a field of more than 600.

Recently she joined the French publishers Editions Gallimard as the company's London picture researcher. She is given either a copy of the text or a synopsis and told, for instance, that 150 pictures are needed, 50 to colour. The type of book and the audience for which it is intended influence the style of the illustrations.

The research — always done to a deadline — involves writing letters, telephoning, going to libraries and other picture sources and liaising with authors and editors "because the more you communicate, the better the results".

The pictures then have to be physically delivered to the researcher. "This can be fraught with unexpected and sometimes ludicrous pitfalls," Miss Bosman says. "One of our editors says that a picture researcher's motto should be 'One day my prints will come!'."

Meticulous records must be kept, fees for loans negotiated within a budget and pictures selected for discussion with the author, editor and designer. Once the final selection is made and a decision taken as to how pictures are to be arranged, spare pictures must be returned. Copyright fees have to be paid on those that are published.

At any one time there may be several hundred pictures under consideration. Mr Smith says that for one book, between 100 and 200 copyright holders had to be paid.

A job such as this calls for a curious mixture of skills. Mr Smith says: "You have to be methodical for administrative work, but still excited by visual stimuli. The task is creative, even though it is existing material that you are producing. You need flair



An inquisitive mind: "you must be good at lateral thinking", says Suzanne Bosman, a picture researcher for a French publishing firm

to be able to choose the right picture for a particular book.

"You must be able to throw yourself with enthusiasm into any subject," Miss Bosman adds. "You must be good at tracking things down, not necessarily through orthodox channels. This sometimes calls for a form of lateral thinking. Luckily, I have a naturally inquisitive mind."

"Some situations can be particularly delicate and a certain amount of tact has to be employed, for example, in matters of copyright, or when a painting belongs to a private owner, since there could be all sorts of ramifications that the picture researchers might not be aware of."

Miss Bosman cycles round London, visiting various sources.

From time to time she goes to France and also travels in the UK. Not all major archives are to be found in the capital.

Some researchers travel still further afield. Ann-Marie Ehrlich, who maintains her own archive, is a freelancer who started her career with the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. She works for book publishers, magazines and television, and covers any subject from archaeology to zoology.

"You get some exciting commissions," she says. "Last year I was doing a project on the Second World War and the clients sent me to the United States and Germany to undertake research."

Freelancers can be paid in different ways, usually either a lump sum for a project or by the

hour. They should negotiate a contract beforehand, setting out clearly what is and what is not expected of them. SPREd maintains a freelance register, putting members and clients in touch with one another, and also provides a model engagement form for members.

How does one get a start? There is no recognized route. While both Miss Bosman and Ms Ehrlich have degrees in fine art, a degree is not essential. Mr Smith had an art school background and answered an advertisement in *The Times* for someone who was "quick, bright and full of good ideas for illustrations".

Occasional job advertisements appear in the media pages of national newspapers and in *The Bookseller* and *Campaign*, but a completely inexperienced person is unlikely to be employed. Some have started as picture clerks, logging pictures in and out, but those who employ such staff are firms with a high throughput of pictures, mainly the part-work firms. Many picture researchers have employment in related fields, working in bookshops, publishing, as photographers, or in picture libraries.

Would-be picture researchers are advised to attend classes, where they will learn about sources and find out whether they like the work.

For careers literature from SPREd, Box 259, London, WC1N 3XX. Course information from Book House Training Centre, 45 East Hill, London, SW18 2QZ.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



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Bernard Doyle, MSL International (UK) Ltd, 4th Floor, Broad Quay House, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS1 4DJ, telephone (0272) 276617, for further information quoting reference 93045. Completed applications should be submitted to the above address no later than 18 June.

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Please contact: Emma Wood, English Heritage, Personnel Management, 6th Floor, 18 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF or telephone 071-973 3878 for a full job description and application form.

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For an informal discussion please contact Alasdair Liddell on Cambridge (0223) 61212.

For further information contact Personnel & Administration Directorate, East Anglian Regional Health Authority, Union Lane, Cambridge, CB4 1RF. Telephone (0223) 61212 ext. 368.

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Alternatively, for an information pack and further details, write to The Manpower Services Department, Sefton MBC, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Crosby L22 0PF.

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11994JA

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Naseby rallies for the final assault

Three and a half centuries after the Battle of Naseby, the rolling acres of Northamptonshire still yield up musket balls from the fateful clash between the 13,000 Roundhead troops, mostly mounted, led by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and the heavily outnumbered foot soldiers of King Charles I, under the command of Lord Ashley. Although there were 5,500 deaths and untold other casualties at Naseby, it lasted only three hours, a fraction of the 20-year war, bloodless but bitter, being waged in the county over the siting of a link road.

The strategy has been drawn up for a last and desperate rearguard action in the latter-day Battle of Naseby. If it fails, then the Department of Transport, which has been gaining the upper hand over the past 18 months, will go ahead with plans to build the final phase of a dual-carriageway link between the M1 and A1, cutting across the historic battlefield.

On June 10, members of the Sealed Knot Society, which re-enacts engagements of the English Civil War, will stage a rally in Whitehall, with a Roundhead messenger clattering post-haste to the statue of Oliver Cromwell, hard by the House of Commons, bearing a facsimile of the message which brought news of the Parliamentarians' rout of the Royalists in 1645.

Later in the day, 85 miles to the north, the society will go through its re-enactment paces on the contested land. David Chandler, head of war studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, will lead a tour of the theatre of conflict to the north of the tiny village of Naseby, whose present residents commute to destinations which would have been two days' forced march away for the king's infantry.

The game looks almost up for Naseby's objectors, whose ranks have been stirred for two decades by the testimonies of such figures as Sir John Betjeman and the historians Dame Veronica Wedgwood, Brigadier Peter Young and Sir Arthur Bryant. For the DoT is shortly to announce the results of a public inquiry, held in February, on the environmental impact of three bridges which would have to be built to carry existing roads across the intended northern route. Since the siting of the road itself was agreed in principle by an

As an ancient battlefield prepares to confront Whitehall's road-building legions, Alan Franks reports from the frontline

earlier inquiry and upheld last year by the Court of Appeal, even the objectors concede the possibility that the only remaining arguments will centre on technicalities, rather than on the DoT's decision to go for the northern option instead of the once-preferred alternative to the south of the village.

Sir Charles Rowley, the vice-chairman of Society for the Protection of the Field of the Battle of Naseby, who lives at Naseby Hall and can trace his ancestry back to the century of the Civil War, maintains that opposition to the road link would gather momentum, even at this late stage, if the scale of the battlefield were more widely appreciated. From the road on Dust Hill, near Prince Rupert's Farm, he surveys the sweep of land to the south, the route of Lord Ashley's advance and, over to the right, the clearly visible line of the Salby Hedges, lined by Fairfax's dragoons under the command of Colonel Okey on the morning of June 14, 1645.

If you concentrate long enough you can almost hear the air grow loud with musket shot. You can also envisage the dual carriageway traversing the path of Prince Rupert's charge. "There is impeccable historical evidence," Sir Charles says, "to show that the battle was fought over an area of two square miles, not in the tiny hexagon shape of a few hundred yards which the Department of Transport has used in its exhibitions."

Lord Justice Bingham, sitting with Lords Justices Dillon and Stocker, gave the present bureaucratic skirmish its historical resonance when he remarked: "The wisdom of investing this exercise of judgment to a democratically elected minister rather than the court would have appealed to

those who won the day at Naseby."

In the opinion of the historians, that proposition is riddled with irony. They argue that the department is showing a deafness to reason which would have sat well on the most autarchical of kings; and that the decision taken in 1975 by Dr John Gilbert, then Labour's Minister of Transport, to locate the route to the south of Naseby because of the battlefield's "overriding" historical importance, should have been allowed to stand. Northampton counters the charge by saying that all the democratic processes have been adhered to in what has always been a finely balanced conflict of environmental interests. Peter Bottomley, Dr Gilbert's present successor in office, even raised the spectre of contemporary bloodshed by suggesting that deaths on other roads in the area might have been avoided if the controversial link had not been so delayed.

Nor are the protesters drawing reinforcements from the powerful ranks of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Although it initially opposed the entire scheme because of its likely effects on the landscape, it now considers that since there is to be a link — construction of the eastern sections is already well advanced — there are strong environmental arguments to support the northern route.

With defeat staring him in the face, King Charles escaped from the field, but his state papers were left behind and fuelled Roundhead accusations that the monarchy had been negotiating with foreign armies for help. The petitions by today's preservationists for overseas support, albeit from the legitimate corridors of the European Commission, have also been in vain. When Sir Charles' group Sir Leon Brittan, the commission's vice-president, last November, he replied that the directive through which action on the affair might have been possible by the commission did not come into force until several months after the development consent had been given.

Yet the society's powder is not entirely doused. While there are objectors who believe that the likelihood of a southern route was always decreased during the lifetime of a Conservative Government by the presence there of rich



Fighting for the battlefield: Sir Charles Rowley

estates and an active hunting community, there are also those who nurse hopes of an eleventh-hour intervention by Christopher Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment. On January 27, he wrote to one of his own constituents in Bath, who had expressed dismay at the fate of the battlefield: "Following the [February] public inquiry I will make a decision with the Secretary of State for Transport after we have considered all objections and representations, together with the inspector's report and recommendations."

Naseby has become too complex an engagement for neat analogies with the battle lines of 1645.

Sir Charles may live in the house that was once the country residence of the Queen Mother, but he, like his adversaries, lays claim to the Parliamentarian rather than the Royalist tradition where the road link is concerned. "These fields are the birthplace of English democracy," he says. "When we see them under such an attack as this, there is no other way but to fight to the death."

Penny-pinching in the name of Britain

How will the wife of our foremost ambassador cope with Mr Hurd's order to cut costs?

The Foreign Secretary has ordered British ambassadors around the world to tighten their belts and purse-strings and cut back on lavish entertaining. Although such orders occur periodically, the word is that this time, it is serious. The big embassies in Washington, Paris, Rome and Bonn have been targeted for Douglas Hurd's largest cutbacks — which could mean embassies and a loss of prestige.

The jewel in the British diplomatic crown is the ambassador's magnificent Lutyens residence in Washington. The embassy, a 1960s building, boasts 90 diplomatic posts — almost twice as many as Paris — with a proportionately high number of staff to support them.

The ambassador is Sir Antony Acland, aged 60, who was due to have retired earlier this year, but when was asked to remain in the post he has filled since 1986.

Yesterday Lady Acland (the former Jennifer Dyke McGowan, who Sir Antony married in 1987 after a period as a widow, during which he had to consult the embassy's three chefs in the morning before performing his ambassadorial duties), was incredulous at the latest edict. "Washington is the biggest British embassy in the world, and the most important," she said. "I work flat out running this house. My husband and I haven't had an evening in alone for five weeks. The house is always completely full of ministers, MPs, and members of the Royal Family — and you need the people to look after them. Just think of the money we are saving the Foreign Office in hotel bills."

As well as requiring financial cutbacks the Foreign Office has admitted that its shortage of skilled staff is such that some retired ambassadors are being invited back to work. An English butler, a first-class French chef and fine wines are all *de rigueur* if the right impression is to be created, Lady Acland believes. But the bedrooms have not been decorated since the previous ambassador's wife, Lady Henderson, invited Laura Ashley, David Hicks, and other British

designers each to decorate a room. "They are beginning to need redecorating, although they are touched up every few years, and I was hoping that one would be able to have them done one at a time."

One of Lady Acland's personal economies is to create all the flower arrangements for the embassy herself. "I buy some of the flowers at wholesale markets," she said. "If you know their price in Washington, or even in London, you will appreciate what a saving that is. But I want to run the embassy like an English house, which means flowers in every room. Luckily we have quite a big garden, into which and I have just put in a cutting garden, so we can make further savings by using our own flowers."

Another huge expense, of course, is the ambassadorial wardrobe — and ambassador's wives have to pay for their own, unlike their French counterparts, who are given clothes to wear by the great couture houses. Since British ambassadors are nearly always career diplomats, rather than very wealthy men given the post for political favours, this can strain the personal budget.

"I shop for my clothes in England and try to wear the best of British design. People always ask what I am wearing and I like to be able to say it is something British," Lady Acland said. "I buy Belinda Belville, Bruce Oldfield and Murray Arbell and sometimes put things away and take them out the next year. Sometimes designers offer a discount."

She says she refuses to cut back on her standards, and the Foreign Office agrees: "If you do, there comes a point of no return."

Despite the supposed "new restraint" of the Bush era, Washington's political and social lights still look to the British Embassy for a certain style, Lady Acland believes. Would she consider switching from roast beef to bangers and mash? Lady Acland was not amused. "I don't think you could do that here," she said.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Where Joseph's chic may safely graze — or browse



Visitors to Joseph Ettedgui's shops may come to fight over a delivery of Azzedine Alaïa skinny dresses, or pick up a Pour La Ville tailored separate, but they usually stay for lunch

The style-bungry customers of the Joseph shops in London are permanently on a diet. High in chic, if not in calories, the varied menu in Joseph's growing chain of fashionable shops and restaurants offers them tagliolini and side salad along with the summer's take-away of the staple Equipment washed silk shirt or mozzarella, tomato and guacamole with an Azzedine Alaïa skintight dress "to go".

London's indefatigable impresario of style, Joseph Ettedgui is both restaurateur and retailer to the chic. His Café L'Express in the basement of one of his original Sloane Street shops has long been a favourite rendezvous point for Knightsbridge shoppers.

A Mallet Stevens tubular bar stool in Joe's Café in Draycott Avenue is the perfect vantage point from which to sip an espresso and consider an investment made in a gold-studded Pellegrino handbag or one of the famous hand-knit tricot in his showcase corner shop opposite.

With a Joseph shop flourishing inside Harvey Nichols, the landmark Knightsbridge store, the discovery that he is the patron of the latest in-store restaurant was almost inevitable. From June 11 Joe's will be open in the store's lower ground menswear floor to fortify the fashion-conscious Harvey Nichols shopper with Carpaccio, Haagen Daz ice-cream or croissants with coffee.

"A shop is like a restaurant," Mr Ettedgui says. "Neither should be full exclusively of pastries, nor only with the over-chic. One crowd enjoys looking at the other. It is with this mix of styles that you get a good atmosphere. The most important thing is entertaining the customers. Nobody actually needs to go out and buy another jacket or sweater. You have to make shopping a pleasure."

Mr Ettedgui was born in Casablanca, where his father had a shop selling furnishings. When he first arrived in London in the early Sixties and opened a hairdressing salon in the King's Road his method of "amusing" his clientele was to install in the reception area neat stacks of sweaters and cotton trousers and sarongs by a new Japanese designer, just making his name in Paris, called Kenzo. Having established the first Kenzo shops in London, (which he still owns and runs, one in the West End, the other in Draycott Avenue), he went on to launch showcases for other young designers, such as Margaret Howell, Yohji Yamamoto, and Katharine Hamnett.

His sales staff are drilled every Monday and Tuesday on how to pull together the clothes he



Above: Soft lilac washed silk shirt, £112. Equipment: lilac cotton shorts, £49. Joseph. Natural straw hat, £125. Patricia Underwood. Amethyst necklace, £850. N. Bloom & Son, 40 Conduit Street, W1.

All clothes and accessories (except jewellery) from Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 77 Fulham Road, SW3; Joseph Tricot, 18 South Molton Street, W1; 21 Sloane Street, SW1; Harvey Nichols, SW1 (except Equipment shirt). Menswear available from 26 Sloane Street, SW1 and 77 Fulham Road, SW3.

Make up by Charlie Green. Hair by Ayo for Dobson & Davison. Photographs by CLIVE ARROWSMITH

chooses, for men and women, from his stable of trend-setting designers such as Alaïa or Isaac Mizrahi, the current American star. Dolce & Gabbana, John Galiano, Moschino, John Richmond and Jasper Conran are among the labels spotted alongside Joseph's own French-tailored Four La Ville range and his Italian-made T-shirt line.

Regular customers look on his shops as a club and get upset if they miss, say, a delivery of Alaïa skinny dresses over which, even at £460 for the few brief inches of stretchy rayon, they have been known to fight.

His own knitwear, Joseph Tricot, was launched when the salesman for a knitwear factory that supplied the famous mustard ribbed sweaters to pupils at Hill

House school in Knightsbridge called into his first Sloane Street shop. The same Stevenage factory still produces the celebrated Tricot 10 years on. The Joseph pastel "Botticelli cherub" patterned sweater of a couple seasons back is already a museum piece, on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

To the relief of his two brothers, Franklin (the accountant of the family, who lives in Provence and "lives in every other week and drives a bit potty") and Maurice Ettedgui, partners in the fashion business which turns over £21 million a year, Joseph has managed to restructure his international empire. He has cut his chain of shops back from 23 to 10 in London, plus two in Paris, another in Cannes and one in New

HOTLINE

Capping off a sunny day

THE sunny weather has re-established the classic panama hat as a summer style. There are numerous variations of the panama, with its ridged or dimpled crown, and Herbert Johnson, the Bond Street hatter, has them all — from a hand-woven creamy requila grass straw with a 5cm brim for about £45 to a wide-brimmed woman's panama for £69. The firm also sells a panama in a straw so fine that the hat can be rolled up to fit in a napkin ring or cardboard tube. The price is £750.

Herbert Johnson, bought earlier this year by Anthony Marangos (who sports a panama around town, of course), celebrated its centenary last year. Founded in 1889 by Herbert Johnson and Edward Glazier, the firm supplies military and sporting hats to the Queen and the Prince of Wales.

As well as the classic top hats, trilbies, tweed caps and padded



Classic shady look for £69

polo caps. Herbert Johnson can whip up a women's range that combines the finest millinery traditions with fashionably snazzy trimmings. A silk meringue trimmed with red berries or a wide-brimmed hat in any shade of wild silk to match an outfit costs about £185.

Herbert Johnson is at 30 New Bond Street, W1.

Age of innocence

After the steamy sensuality of the advertising posters for his earlier fragrance, Obsession, Calvin Klein's Eternity sells on the theme of more innocent love. Instead of the naked bodies entwined on the ground that pushed sales of Calvin Klein fragrances up to \$400,000 (£250,000) last year, the more sensitive image of a man clasping



Calvin Klein's fragrant father

a child on a beach is felt better to reflect the spirit of today.

Calvin Klein Eternity for men will be launched exclusively in Harvey Nichols in London next Monday Fresh and woody, with a cocktail of jasmine, mandarin, sandalwood and vetiver, Eternity costs £24 for 100ml aftershave and £29 for eau-de-toilette.

Flower power

A new crop of fashionably flowery scents has bloomed for summer. Floris's newest, Zinnia, is a revival of a fragrance from a Floris catalogue of the 1850s. Zinnia has more than a hint of violet, which will please fans of Floris's English Violet, a fragrance it recently discontinued.

Sheila Pickles has produced four single-flower scents in her Penhaligon Language of Flowers collection — Gardenia, Lily of the Valley, Violette and Orange Blossom, available as toilet water, soap or scented candle.

Collier Campbell, the successful textile design partnership of two sisters, Susan Collier and Sarah Campbell, has added spice and flower aromatherapy oils to their home fragrance and bath products range.

Tea for two

Is the Queen Mother looking for another official photographer or a new couturier? The energetic Karl Lagerfeld, who snaps as well as snaps as photographer-designer at Chanel, Fendi and his own-name fashion house, has a date for tea with the Queen Mother.

The meeting will take place next month on his own home ground. His Brittany château is conveniently close to the local airport, and when the Queen Mother arrives for a tour of Brittany her itinerary includes lunch with Prince Louis de Polignac, followed by tea with Mr Lagerfeld, his neighbour.

Katharine Wells

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ARTS

THEATRE

Father's child in her own time

Actress Zoë Wanamaker, in the National Theatre production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, talks to Heather Neill

When Zoë Wanamaker was in her early teens, she attended a meeting of the Plymouth Brethren. Memories of promised hell-fire and damnation, a contrast to the light and hope of her Quaker boarding school, have helped her to understand the pressures within the Puritan community of *The Crucible*. In 1692 this was a society learning with difficulty to accommodate new freedoms as the constraints of the early years of settlement began to loosen.

But Arthur Miller's play, based on the actual events in Salem which ended with 19 people hanged for witchcraft, has parallels nearer home for Wanamaker. Writing in 1952, Miller was outraged by the McCarthyist witch-hunt, in which many of his friends were denounced as Communists. The play was his statement against the official hysteria. Sam Wanamaker, the film actor, realizing that he, too, was likely to be subpoenaed, took the opportunity to appear in a play in England. Three-year-old Zoë came along and was brought up English instead of American, something for which she is now grateful, despite an acknowledgement that transatlantic "naïve confidence" would have been useful.

Playing Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* has prompted Zoë to ask questions of Sam. "It was never relevant before, how it built. He was very active, very vocal; and he knew Miller, of course." Her parents, both of Russian Jewish stock, met at drama school in Chicago. She speaks with more than filial respect and admiration for her father, now famous all over again for his tireless campaign to reconstruct Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in Southwark. "He was the first Method actor to come to this country and perform on stage. He carries a lot of weight and

history with him." She claims she would be terrified to act with him. She enjoys research, dredging her own memories, reading widely, questioning and observing other people. For her moving and intelligent Emilia, in last year's Trevor Nunn *Othello*, she boned up on the experiences of army wives, talked to a friend about her splintering marriage and re-examined painful memories of a jealous relationship.

She particularly relished the role of Paula in Nicholas Wright's *Mrs Klein*, an earlier National Theatre appearance, as her research into Kleinian analysis related closely to the way an actor prepares. "The process is about trying to discover what you bring with you, the luggage you carry as a character, what it is that brings a person to that level when you meet him or her." Suddenly, she feels she has said too much, as if the magic will disappear if it is analyzed. "It's a bit waxy, talking about acting. To explain minimizes it. It's so easy to seem precious." And always she is quick to pay tribute to her directors (in *The Crucible* it is Howard Davies), crediting them with good ideas and providing her with a focus on the play.

After a rehearsal she admits to the feeling of apprehension which most actors experience before performing on the large Olivier stage. Elizabeth Proctor's scenes are intimate, by definition the most difficult to encompass in a space where the clog-dancing chorus of *The Trakers of Oxyrhynchus* and the hiss-and-bo melodrama of *The Shaughraun* were most at home.

Miller asks much of his Proctors: they must radiate coolness, exuding the lack of ability to show deep regard which is at the root of the tragedy. John Proctor has committed adultery with Abigail, their servant, now ringleader of the teenager accusers. Wanamaker says: "It takes a crisis to



Zoë Wanamaker: Sometimes depressed, because the women she plays are often victims

make them re-examine their relationship. Pride has hampered Elizabeth - at being hurt, in being self-righteous, in the precepts of religion."

A naturally warm, outspoken person herself, she finds most difficult Elizabeth's refusal to advise Proctor to confess and so save his life. "But Elizabeth changes, finds out about herself; and the couple's feelings do find a

voice in the harrowing last scene.

Zoë Wanamaker is the consummate actor ("actress" is a term she considers fluffy). Despite well-documented successes, nominated for awards more often than not, she is still vulnerable. When a reviewer criticized her performance in *The Importance of Being Earnest* she took it to heart: "The awful thing was, I suspected he was right. It destroyed me for

about four months." She observes that female characters in the classics are often victims. "Every few months I get depressed and I put it down to that. You live with them and it affects your life."

● *The Crucible* is previewing tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm at the Olivier, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). It opens on Thursday, 7pm, and continues in repertory.

TELEVISION

Spring again?

Jasper Rees on the BBC's two-week season of Czech programmes and films, "Tales from Prague", which began last night

EVEN as he was signing the country away to Hitler in 1938, Neville Chamberlain confessed that he knew next to nothing about Czechoslovakia. He was in good company: in *A Winter's Tale*, Shakespeare makes reference to "the coast of Bohemia", a geographical fiction which Zdena Tomlin, the exiled writer and former Charter 77 spokesman, took as the title of one of her novels.

It seems absurd that we should have been so ignorant of a country whose capital city is closer to London than Vienna, Rome or Madrid; but the Czechoslovaks are used to absurdity. They find it in Prague's two great novelists, Kafka and Hasek, in the forcing of many of their leading intellectuals into mental work for the last 20 years, and in the fact that they now have a playwright and a recent prisoner as a president.

As a result of the "Velvet Revolution", our ignorance is, of course, on the wane, so much so that, culturally speaking, Czechoslovakia is acquiring "most favoured nation" status. This spring alone, four of the country's most distinguished writers have visited Britain: the novelists Bohumil Hrabal and Ivan Klima, the poet Miroslav Holub and the president Václav Havel. All four made well attended appearances at the ICA in London.

And last night, the ICA was joined by BBC 2 as a prime mover in the dissemination of Czechoslovakia, when it launched its "Tales from Prague" season.

The peculiarity of the land, which sets it apart from the other revolutionary countries in Central and Eastern Europe, is described by Alan Yentob, the controller of BBC 2: "Czechoslovakia's revolution was inspired by a cultural tradition, and led by writers, artists and students. It therefore represents a fascinating intersection of culture and politics. At the same time, that liberal, cultural tradition is having to grapple with the concrete realities of leading

their country with a new order."

The thrust of the two-week season, which culminates in two live broadcasts on the day of the nation's first free election since 1946, on June 8, is to give a crash course in this politicized culture, in its late-1960s cinema (films by Milos Forman, Jiří Menzel and others), its architecture, its rock and classical music, and above all its special appreciation of absurdity. The opening programme last night, was called *Absurdistan*, and examined the Satirist's realm where the costume designer of *Amadeus* has re-designed the palace guard uniform, a rock musician is now an MP, and the capital's ugly, imposing television tower, built to jam Western programmes, now transmits them.

One of the contributors to *Absurdistan*, Pavel Seifter, is a historian, but he has had to work as a window cleaner. In explaining how he chose to relieve the monotony of the job by regarding it as a metaphor, he gave expression to a singularly Czechoslovak characteristic. One of the motifs of the programme was a vast bust of Stalin which was erected a few years before the dictator's death. Though it symbolically dominated the Prague skyline, it was only completed once Stalinism had been discredited: hence its laboriously quarried and sculpted stone had to be secretly dismantled and disposed of.

The Death of Stalinism in Bohemia, a short film by the satirical animator Jan Svankmajer, curiously depicts with the same theme. Commissioned by BBC 2 and to be broadcast in Czechoslovakia the night before the elections, it illustrates, as does an entire week of Prague-based *Late Shows* and tonight's *Byline Special* by Zdena Tomlin, the BBC's earnest desire to train a spotlight on a country which, if only we knew more about it, would be as accessible and absorbing to us as the culture of Italy or France.

RADIO

Defence of freedom of expression goes on and on

THE chief fascination of Barry Norman on television is his unrivalled antique technique, a seamless unravelling of sentences that seem to spool out effortlessly from somewhere around the viewer's eyebrows. While this makes it difficult to concentrate on what he actually says, the performance is nevertheless worth the price of admission. On radio the delivery remains unchanged - he undoubtedly talks to himself in the bath to exactly the same reasonable, point-scoring fashion - and the sentences are no shorter or less rounded. Somewhere, in another dimension perhaps, there is undoubtedly a bus stop where he stands and talks while

grown men queue up to hang themselves from lamp-posts.

The series title of *How Far Can You Go?* (Radio 4, 9.30am; Thursdays) alludes not to the capacity of Norman's lungs but to the tolerance of that increasingly national entity, British society. Norman believes that "artistic freedom" is under threat and that it is his duty to fight the corner of what is left of the liberal consensus. Leave aside the fact that "freedom" is a mirage of demonstrably recent vintage and you are still left with a stew of paradox.

The rise of religious fundamentalism of all stripes means that the possibilities for offence

have never looked healthier. At the same time, the avant-garde is becoming increasingly desperate to assert and particularize itself in the face of the flattening effect of mass media, of which radio forms a significant part. So the real conflict will involve grabbing the microphone (or megaphone) and holding on to it for the longest time possible: a future embodied and threatened in the hectoring homogeneity of rap records.

Interviewing the laid-back and soporific John Cleese, on the vexed question of *The Life of Brian*, Norman did not demur when the former stated that the Spanish Inquisition was in the habit of torturing its victims to

death, an assertion which evades the libel laws of some countries. In this context it is worth remembering that 400 years ago, the then Pope promised instant absolution to anyone who assassinated the then Queen of England.

But still, no one expects the Spanish Inquisition; what one expects today is a hit-squad fresh out of Tehran. A certain British Muslim confessed that he would not kill Salman Rushdie personally for fear of infuriating British law, but that he would applaud foreigners who succeeded in this ambition. "That's immoral!" Norman exploded, as though his interlocutor might at least have had the courage of his convictions.

The problem is, of course, that courage resides in the opposite, in refusing to allow extremists to refuse to allow what we professionals call fair comment. It is not easier to do nothing, it is easier to do something, and extremists are aware of this fact.

All sectarian propaganda relies on the inertia of the middle ground, which it uses as a fulcrum. The biggest hoot of all, as revealed by this programme, is that the criminal offence of inciting religious hatred obtains only in Northern Ireland. Here we see the true efficacy of statute law in regulating anti-social behaviour.

MARTIN CROPPER

CLASSICAL MUSIC

When an early-riser meets the voice of God

Roger Norrington would not take kindly to being called an early music specialist. Quite apart from the awkwardness of the term (when I was a student, early music ended summarily in the year 1600), he has had wide experience of conducting orchestras that do not attempt period-style performance practices. Last Wednesday and on Sunday, for instance, he was at the Festival Hall, in charge of the Philharmonia Orchestra in two concerts of Beethoven.

Nevertheless, his reputation today does rest largely on his achievements in the field of so-called authenticity (another of those risky terms). He has attracted attention by using instruments built to 18th- or early 19th-century specifications and played in a manner appropriate to those times (at least as far as we can gather from surviving documentary evidence). Perhaps more importantly, he has attracted attention from his way of looking at everything he conducts as though it were new.

The results can be startling and invigorating, or, as in the case of his recent recording of Schubert's Ninth Symphony, strangely reassuring. He views the work not as a great final masterpiece, but as the first mature fruits of a symphonist destined for yet greater things he had lived longer.

Beethoven's Missa Solemnis is, however, unequivocally a late work. Some think it is the product of near-madness, peppered with still anarchic-sounding harmonies and rhythms; but others are convinced it represents, to use Wilfred Mellers's phrase, "the voice of God".

How could such a piece, which most conductors tackle with a mixture of awe, trepidation and distracted attention by using instruments built to 18th- or early 19th-century specifications and played in a manner appropriate to those times (at least as far as we can gather from surviving documentary evidence). Perhaps more importantly, he has attracted attention from his way of looking at everything he conducts as though it were new.

For Norrington there are no

sacred conventions of performance. Even the purely physical arrangements are subject to change. In this instance, the Philharmonia's first and second violins were placed opposite each other on the platform: common practice, in fact, until our own century. Positioned in this way, each section becomes more clearly heard, because the sound of each line is more easily disentangled by the ear from the other.

Rather more questionably, Norrington indulged in his practice of putting his team of solo singers - Alison Hargan, Claire Powell, Philip Langridge and Gwynne Howell - behind, rather than in front of the orchestra. This strikes me as dubious decision, even if an authentic one.

The singer's natural response is to project more forcefully, and here that resulted in some uncharacteristically ugly singing, particularly from Langridge but also on occasion from Hargan. Indeed the blend of these two soloists was generally unsatisfactory.

Powell and Howell rhyme in richness and sturdiness of voice as well as name; both are good, strong oratorio singers. But Hargan and Langridge opted for a harder, more operatic and, as far as exactitude of pitch was concerned, a less accurate approach.

Uncomfortable though the soloists collectively sounded, they were a detail in what proved a positive and, in many ways, a thoroughly radical performance. Norrington's speeds, as so often, were on the fast side. In the case of the "Et vitam venturi" section at the end of the Credo, they were too fast. The choir was too large to be able to accommodate the demands of such a frenetic pace without losing some definition. Yet elsewhere - in the Kyrie, for example - Norrington was willing to be as broad and noble as any conductor.

Another point of intensely reflective repose was the opening of the Sanctus, where, for once, the soloists were sensible to the requirement for nothing but simplicity in their singing of the

moving three-note motif. Here, too, the Philharmonia attained a quiet nobility that pointed towards the spiritual core of the piece. There were, perhaps, too many moments in the thrilling chaos of the Gloria and Credo when Norrington's fervent enthusiasm blurred the complex rhythms of those movements.

Bradley Creswell's long, soaring and sweet violin solo in the Benedictus, meanwhile, provided an evocative glimpse of things celestial. It was hard to detect any hard and fast application of period-style practices here, as indeed it was generally in the music-making.

As we approach the music of our own time the distinction between old and new traditions of performance in any case becomes more blurred. Rather, Norrington captured the spirit of the piece through, if anything, exaggerating its contrasts, of accents, dynamics, speeds, and, not least, colour. If that meant he erred, at least he erred on the right side.

STEPHEN PETTIT

CRITICS' CHOICE: CONCERTS & RECITALS

CATHEDRAL CLASSICS: Worth a journey to hear Lannox Barkeley's hauntingly beautiful *Four Poems of St Teresa* (soloist Elizabeth McCormack), with London Festival Orchestra directed by Ross Pople. Also *Harp Concertino* by Demess (Jean Jones) and the Cathedral Choir in Duruflé's *Requiem*. Durham Cathedral, Durham (091 384 3720/232 1356), tonight, 7.30pm, £4-£8. Series continues (different programmes) at Nottingham Cathedral, tomorrow; St Paul's, London (British Deaf Association Centenary, with percussionist Evelyn Glennie), Thurs; Rochester Cathedral, Sat, all 7.30pm.

RUGGLES AND RESURRECTION: Muted brass, orchestra and wordless hymn comprise *Organum* and *Exultation* by Carl Ruggles, America's hardy independent of the last generation, preceding the grandeur of Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony (No 2). Michael Tison Thomas conducts LSO and Chorus with soloists Marie McLoughlin, Alfreda Hodgson. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-938 8891), tomorrow and Thurs, 7.45pm, £4.50-£20.

POLES TOGETHER: Holst's *St Paul's Suite* and Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* are visiting cards presented by Polish Chamber Orchestra, who reach London on a UK tour. Also Violin Concertos by Bach (A minor) and Vivaldi (four violins), and Bartók's

Divertimento, all directed by Jan Stanienda. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm, £4-£15.

SAMARITANS GALA: The best of young talent, in Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, tackle the ceremonial and thrilling *Requiem* in support of Samaritans and Belvoir International. French Conductor Serge Baudo directs London Choral Society and Pro Musica Chorus, with solo tenor David Johnston. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank (see above), Fri, 7.30pm, £5-£15.

PICCADILLY BAROQUE: Opening programme of Lufftansa Festival of Baroque Music features Trevor Pinnock directing the English Concert playing period-style instruments in "The Classical Style". G minor Symphonies by Haydn (No 39) and Mozart (No 25) frame Mozart's *Concerto for Oboe* (Paul Goodwin) and No 4 for Violin (Simon Standage).

St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-434 4003), Fri, 7.30pm, £5, £10.

SPANISH BATH: A Spanish theme threading through the Bath Festival is vividly highlighted in an all-Fall programme by the Nash Ensemble conducted by Lionel Friend. Sarah Walker sings *Trois Mélodies* to Gauthier poems, and *Psyché* by Jan Brown is heard in the Harpsichord Concerto and *Fantasia Barocca* for piano, and all

together in the evocative gypsy ballet, *El Amor Origo*. Christ Church, Bath (0225 463362/464111), Fri, 7.45pm, £3.50-£10.

WELSH FRENCH: Louis Frémaux is guest conductor with BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra in double-feature French programme. Huw Trevellick Williams plays the dramatic organ solo in the Third Symphony by Saint-Saëns. Lorna Anderson and John Shirley-Quirk join the BBC Welsh Chorus for the gentle conclusions of Fauré's *Requiem*.

St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236), Sat, 7.30pm, £4-£12.50.

ORGANIC HAYDN: Haydn scholar H. Robbins Landon's new edition of the intimate, intricately-woven "Great Organ Mass" is featured at the Greenwich Festival, with Stephen Dagg conducting the Meridian Chamber Choir and Orchestra, and David Titterton to show forth the organ's "Benedictus" solo, as well as a Handel Organ Concerto, "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale". Also an Aaron Copland nineteenth birthday tribute, with his Book of Genesis setting, *In The Beginning*.

St Alphegus Church, Greenwich Church Street, London SE10 (081-317 8687/855 5900), Sat, 7.30pm, £3-£5.

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC: How fares the great orchestra since Karajan? Answers at two South Bank concerts. On Sunday afternoon Daniel Barenboim steps up to conduct Schubert's

"Unfinished" and Beethoven's *Eroica* symphonies; on Monday evening Seiji Ozawa takes charge for Bruckner's No 4, the "Romantic", with Murray Perahia the pianist in Mozart's E flat Concerto (K 482). Royal Festival Hall (see above), Sun, 3.15pm; Mon, 7.30pm, £10-£20.

NOEL GOODWIN

PERLEMUTER RETURNS: Viado Perlemuter studied Ravel's piano works with the composer, and was one of the first to play them in public: he makes a rare visit to London with four movements from *Le Tombeau de Couperin* in a programme which also features Debussy, Chopin and Fauré.

Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £4-£10.

DONOHUE IN BATH: The Bath Festival has booked the pianist Peter Donohue for a programme which should stimulate his particular long-sighted, large-scale musical skills: Liszt's *Sonata super Carmen*, and Liszt's *Sonata in B minor* flanked by Ravel and Debussy. Spain is never far away.

Guildhall, Bath (0225 463362), Thurs, 7.30pm, £5.50-£10.50.

CHAMBER MUSIC COMPANY: A pedestrian name for a far from predictable group of musicians: the silver-voiced Indian soprano Patricia

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RAINFORREST XAS: John Harle, one of Europe's most robust and versatile saxophonists, takes inspiration from the intimate sounds of the rainforest in a recital given as part of the Friends of the Earth Rainforest Festival. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), Sat, 6.7-10pm, free.

PRESSLER GOES SOLO: The Beaux Arts Trio's peerless pianist, Menahem Pressler, takes a solo spot at the Wigmore Hall's Sunday morning coffee concert in a programme of Bach/Busoni, Beethoven and Chopin. Wigmore Hall (see above), Sun, 11.30am, £4 including liquid refreshment.

BARRY DOUGLAS: The Belfast-born prize-winning and increasingly pugnacious pianist takes his turn in the South Bank's Sunday International Piano Series, with a hefty recital of Berg, Prokofiev, Liszt, Shostakovich and Scriabin. Not for the faint-hearted. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon, 7.45pm, £4-£10.

HILARY FINCH

Small, dark and brilliant

MARILYN KINGWILL



Noble moth, cold flame: Federico (Paul Mooney) and Cassandra (Sara Mair-Thomas)

THEATRE

Punishment Without Revenge? Gate

LOPE DE VEGA is the outstanding dramatist of the Spanish golden age, and had already written more than 500 plays by the time he penned this vivid butterfly of a play. Flitting amid the shadows of a corrupt Italian court and finally settling upon the repressed desires of the Duke's wife and bastard son, this comic-tragedy has lost none of its dark appeal.

Darkly lit at *la Batman*, Laurence Boswell's shimmering production is a triumph, skilfully pointing up the ambivalence of the action. Masks and screens echo the formal veneer of the lovers, starchy decorum cooaling hidden sensuality. The simple, whitewashed walls of the set are littered with dark wooden reliquaries containing candles, but there are no windows, not even in which (significantly) the audience can see themselves.

The cast is large and talented, with strength in depth. Sara Mair-Thomas's Cassandra, icy-eyed and cold as the shadows, shedding a cold light from her waxwork face, is a slim, white taper in a charcoal silk dress. She fills the stage with her flickering iridescence, her voice ranging from a wispy tremor to a scintillating clariob-scrib.

For Federico, her attraction is fatal. Moths don't have a chance against a naked flame. Bastard

sons don't have a chance in tragedy, either, although in Paul Mooney's performance Federico has nobility and gentleness and a voice with a quality akin to the black velvet he wears.

There are many other successes,

including David Sumner's Duke, silver-haired and stanesque; Federico's servant, Balthazar (Cranich), a rapacious ruffian with a strong line in pambles; and Mick Sands' carnival-like music, with its syncretized *Ave Marias* and

eerily twisting, whining chants: the result is impossible to fault. This brilliant production deserves a larger stage, but it is hard to imagine a more perfect use of a small ooc. Bravo.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

OPERA

The Love for Three Oranges

Dresden State Opera

PROFESSOR Joachim Herz, the Dresden State Opera's chief stage director and a frequent guest at the ENO and Welsh Opera, has built up a long list of exceptionally fine productions since he first attracted international attention at East Berlin's Kammerspiele Oper during the glory days of Walter Felsenstein.

This vivacious and brilliantly imaginative new production, punctuated with grace-notes of innocent mediterranean earthiness and evocative bawdry, belongs well up towards the top of that list.

ROCK

Del Fuegos

Town & Country

NOT without reason did the Del Fuegos from Boston approach their second visit to London with trepidation. As last time, three years ago, the show was under-published and poorly attended.

Yet, even allowing for such difficulties, the group seemed disconnected from the ebbs and flows of contemporary trends. At a time when the rappers and knob-widdlers of the house-music brigade hold sway over the UK chart, and the music press is hypothesized by the extravagances of Mancunian psychedelia, the Del Fuegos' embodiment of the eternal rock 'n' roll verities — two guitars, bass, drums and an attitude — has an anachronistic flavour.

They motored on stage with a minimum of fuss, three scare-crow-like figures, and a drummer built like a dumper truck. "Headlights", with its funky undertow, was followed by the deceptively lazy groove of "Hold Us Down", which gave way in turn to "Name Names", an up-tempo, Tom Petty-style rocker. All were dispatched with a lean, urgent accuracy tempered by the graceful *sang-froid* of American musicians

the opera's almost surreal story can forget about it — a wisp of oar-thing concerning a bored young Prince whom the evil Fata Morgana enchants into gning bananas over three oranges. He becomes amorally obsessed with tracking them.

The vast technical facilities of the Dresden State Opera's magnificent theatre, re-opened five years ago with every last word in theatrical machinery and technology, permit this dazzling production, framed by Ella Spate's baroque and sometimes hilarious sets and costumes, almost to take on the magical flexibility of an animated cartoon.

Surprise follows surprise. This begins during the Theatre Director's opening remarks, sung to the audience but interrupted by apparent members of that audi-

ence, up in the boxes, who burst into song repeatedly during the evening (and also woid up playfully pelting auditors in the stalls with orange-coloured tennis balls at the end).

A number of apparent stage hands remonstrate, to antiphonal chorus, with the occupants of the boxes, all of them boned to a fine edge by their chorus-master Hans-Dieter Pfleger. Ooe eye-catching event succeeds another, including several tumblers, two unicyclists, and a monkey.

Probably only the Vienna State Opera, which involves the Vienna Philharmonic, has an orchestra as superb as this Dresden house, which has the old-gold Dresden State Orchestra. Under Hans-E. Zimmer's alert and spirited baton, it made the most of Prokofiev's quick-silver music.

A fine Polish tenor, Krzysztof Moleda, dominated the cast as the Prince. He has a powerful voice which is ringing in quality, true in pitch and of almost heroic dimensions.

Ralf Wolrad as the King, Peter Kächler as Truffaldino, Helga Termer as Fata Morgana, and a number of others in supporting roles all contributed to a memorable production.

In mid-September, for the first time ever, West Berlin's annual Festival Weeks will present an East German company, the Dresden State Opera, in the Deutsche Oper Berlin in two performances each of this production and of Ruth Bernhard's co-production of the Strauss *Elektra*. *The Love for Three Oranges* alone almost justifies a trip there.

OSCAR MOORE

who have been around long enough to know what they want from a song but still young enough to throw a good pose.

Although the Del Fuegos have been trading as such for 10 years, the band came apart at the seams after a gem of a third album, *Stand Up*, released in 1987. A new line-up has since coalesced around founder-members Tim Lynnd (bass) and Dan Zanes (vocals, guitar and songwriter-in-chief). But the process has evidently not been easy and Zanes, a skeletal figure with a deep, growling drawl, had the air of a man who has learnt a few painful lessons.

He talked at wistful length about the elusive meaning of true love during "Breakaway", be introduced "Stand By You" with stern words about the need for commitment in love, and he stumbled during "It's Alright" with a self-pitying, faintly stooped monologue about the loneliness of the rock 'n' roll hotel lifestyle.

These intrusive sub-Springsteen homilies marred a performance which was otherwise a model of fluency and coosion. Lloyd's forceful harmony vocals underlined the soulful qualities of the big ballad "Coupe DeVille" and a gorgeous choppy riff introduced the infectious pump and push of "Wear It Like A Cape".

More attention was paid to musical detail and less to lush image than English counterparts such as the Quireboys or the Snoc Roses (see below) would deem appropriate. However, the reality is that unless they devise a strategy — a peg on which to hang it all — another decade no the band circuit beckons.

DAVID SINCLAIR

The Stone Roses

Spike Island, Widnes

THE Stone Roses claim they are rock's fastest growing phenomenon since the Rolling Stones. Less than a year ago, they were just another indie band garnering a grass roots following. Since their debut album was released, last autumn, it has never been out of the charts. In recent weeks they have also had four records in the singles listings.

This open air event in an alleged beauty spot in the middle of Merseyside was attended by 30,000 mainly teenage fans and 200 journalists. Also present were the local pop aristocracy, including members of New Order, the Christians, and the Happy Mondays.

How have the Stone Roses managed this rapid ascent to stardom? Partly because their

music — mainly 1960s guitar-based melodies and state-of-the-art dance rhythms — attracts revellers who used to dance at the now-outdated acid house parties, and instead have to go to large events such as Spike Island in order to fraternize on a serious scale.

The songs are also sing-along tuneful. From the opening "I Wanna Be Adorned" in his such as "She Bangs The Drum" and the excellent "Elephant Stoe", sing along is what much of the audience did. Keen scholars of the age immediately preceding psychedelia will have recognized smatches of The Who, Troggs, the Beach Boys, and the Zombies, while their image comes courtesy of the Byrds and the Beatles circa *The Revolver* album. Singer Ian Brown sports a fringe of hair and a shirt cut like a kaftan, while the light show is a glorified version of the average students' union disco, 20 years ago.

But the band is playing to a different generation, and its sound is evolving. The occasional guitar solo indicated the possibility of a harder rock direction, while the reggae which chugged out from the sound system throughout the afternoon hinted that this could be another musical genre ripe for the taking.

MIKE NICHOLLS

NEW RELEASES

DREAMS (PG): Alvin Karpov's fantasy on themes of violence, ecology, and the artist's urge to create: uneven, a touch neat, but a visual feast.

Harlem Nights (R): Tired, wretched period piece about a nightclub threatened by a corrupt crime boss; an unimpressive work for Eddie Murphy (temporarily serving as writer, director and star), with Richard Pryor.

Canons: Baker Street (071-535 5772) Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Empire (071-535 5772) Whitley (071-732 3303/3324).

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CINEMA GUIDE

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's selection of current theatre in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

(071-730 1745) Undergound: Square Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 1h 30mins.

MAN OF THE MOMENT: Masterly comedy by Michael Crichton. Directed by Michael Crichton.

Canons: Fulham Road (071-370 2535) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-535 5772) Plaza (071-427 0559) Whitley (071-732 3303/3324).

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN: A comedy about a man who is a parody of a parody. Directed by Michael Hoffman.

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COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
●TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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MPs to seek new policy on sewage disposal

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

DAMNING evidence about the health threat to bathers from sewage discharges has been uncovered by a parliamentary inquiry into the state of Britain's beaches.

As the Government faces prosecution by the European Commission for its dirty shore line, the inquiry by the Commons environment committee is preparing a report confirming that viruses in sewage can survive for far longer than previously thought.

The committee is expected to call for a completely new philosophy to tackle the problem of sewage disposal. In the short-term the committee wants warning signs on beaches which fail to meet EC standards. In spite of resistance from communities who do not want to deter tourists, the MPs believe bathers have a right to know the health risks at 97 out of the 401 main coastal resorts.

After receiving expert evidence from around the world, the cross-party committee dismissed the confidence of officials who assumed that, since E. coli bacteria, present in faeces, dies quickly in seawater, viruses and pathogens are also killed off.

Evidence from Professor Alasdair McIvor, of Aberdeen University, a world authority on marine pollution, showed that viruses, including poliovirus, could live for up to 17 months - a finding backed by other scientists.

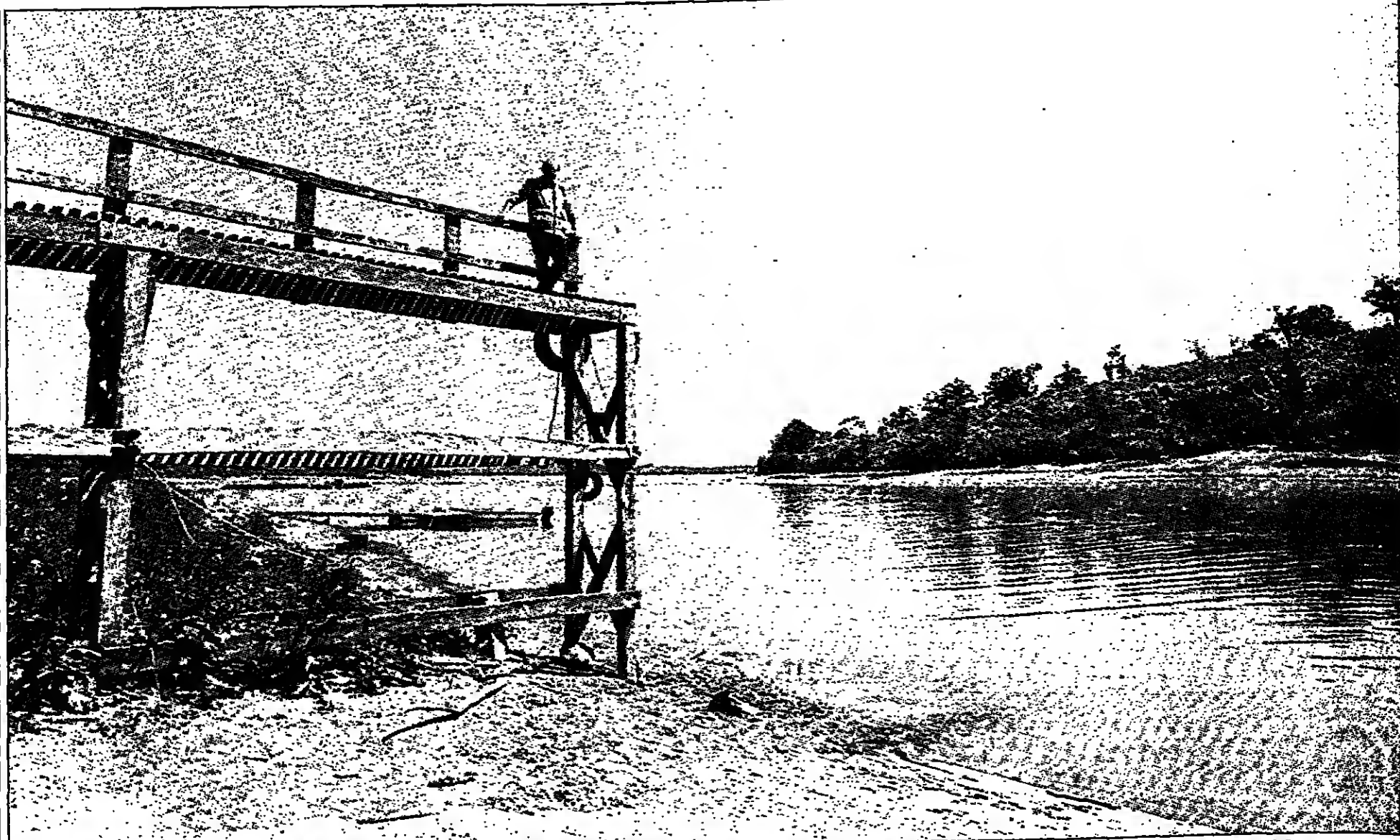
Sir Hugh Rossi, the committee chairman, who has completed two-thirds of his draft report, said: "All this adds up to indicate to us that the conventional wisdom based on observations of E. coli was all wrong and that viruses do survive, particularly in raw sewage."

The final report of the nine-month investigation will be published later this summer.

In the face of the committee's findings, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, has already announced that his objective is to have primary and secondary treatment of all sewage. In its evidence earlier this year, the committee had dismissed the idea of thorough treatment of all sewage as unnecessary and expensive.

Sir Hugh said the committee began its investigation because of fears that, in constructing long sea outfalls to cope with sewage discharges, Britain would repeat the mistake it made in building tall chimneys, which were found to lead to acid rain. Sir Hugh said: "The Department of Environment thought long sea outfalls were perfect. As we progressed through our inquiry, that philosophy came more and more under question."

The committee is likely to recommend a package of options, although each has drawbacks. For instance, the MPs are keen on more sewage disinfection, so long as the method used is "ecologically friendly". They also want more sewage incineration plants, as in West Germany and Denmark, but recognize the problem in selling the idea to local communities. "Green" lobby groups oppose the solution because of possible harmful emissions.



Suffering from the sun: The early drought has left the Bowl Water reservoir near Lamberhurst, Kent, a third empty and 12ft lower than it should be at this time of the year

DES JONSON

Greece may free lorry driver

From CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

A GREEK public prosecutor yesterday recommended that charges against the British lorry driver accused of smuggling parts of an alleged Iraqi "super-gun" into Greece be dismissed due to insufficient evidence.

In his recommendation the Misdemeanours Court prosecutor, Mr Antonis Mitis, also proposed that the £19,000 bail, raised by a London newspaper for the temporary release of Mr Paul Ashwell, be returned to the driver.

Mr Mitis further said he accepted the defence argument that Mr Ashwell was "not aware of what he was hauling". He recommended the return to Mr Ashwell of the lorry and trailer on which the 29.5-tonne steel tube, allegedly part of a giant artillery gun, had been loaded.

The prosecutor's recommendation will be considered by a three-judge judicial council within the next few days who will decide whether Mr Ashwell be tried for a misdemeanour or to dismiss the case.

Mr Ashwell was arrested in the port of Patras last month after British officials tipped off Greek customs officers that the steel tube on his lorry could be part of a super-gun.

The steel tube and the lorry are being stored in a military training centre on the outskirts of Patras.

Temperatures flare in the holiday heat

Continued from page 1

Intrepid white water raft racers, who usually speed through rapids on 100 miles of the River Wye between Hay and Chepstow, were stranded by the lack of rain in recent weeks and were obliged to carry their craft over places where they would normally have paddled.

Ten competitors in the annual three-day event were treated for heat exhaustion, and many members of the 75 teams taking part needed treatment for cuts caused by scraping the river's rocky bottom. Miss Patricia Hales, the race spokeswoman, said: "The river has never been as low as this over the 13 years the event has been staged."

The drought also had an adverse effect on the International Worm Charming Festival held at Blackawton in Devon yesterday. Though the winning team, managed to persuade 40 worms to rise to the surface of a patch of earth three-feet by four-feet in 20 minutes, the world record stands at 149 worms.

As temperatures rose police had to step in to deal with some hot tempers. In Weymouth, Dorset, two punch-ups left three police officers needing treatment in hospital. A Dorset police spokesman said: "The hot weather has

certainly been a contributing factor and feelings have been running a little high."

Legal proceedings will begin today to remove 2,000 hippies with 400 vehicles who occupied Inglestone Common outside Bristol, ignoring police warnings that they would be prosecuted for trespass. Police said 48 people had been arrested on drugs, vandalism and motoring offences.

Attempts to disperse the convoy - whose leaders have announced a "free festival" on the site - were abandoned yesterday because of the threat of violence. Officers of Northavon district council, whose bylaws ban camping on the common, were advised by police to withdraw as hippies began shouting threats. Villagers in nearby Hawkesbury Upton said they were too terrified to leave their homes.

There was less disruption to air traffic services than had been feared. French air traffic controllers who staged a 24-hour strike forced British Airways to cancel 18 out of 20 scheduled flights between Heathrow and Paris. But larger aircraft flew extra passengers to Brussels and coaches were provided to Paris from there.

A strike and work-to-rule by 100 immigration officers at Heathrow belonging to the



Enjoying the sun: Some of the thousands who spent the bank holiday sunbathing at Hampton Court Palace

DES JONSON

National Union of Civil and Public Servants caused no disruption because 200 members of the rival Immigration Staff Union were working normally.

Six flights to Paris from Manchester airport yesterday were also diverted by Brussels

but almost all other departures left on schedule. An airport spokesman said: "It's one of the best bank holidays we've had for years."

On the roads one man died, and another man, a woman and two children were taken to hospital after a car crash in

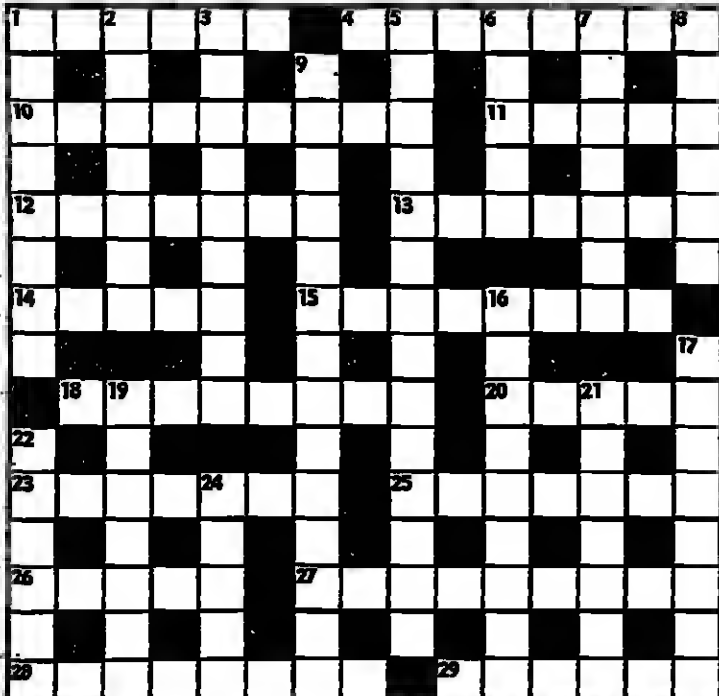
Kent at the intersection of the A299 and A28.

In many parts of the South police were forced to go to the aid of dogs whose owners had left them locked inside cars which had overheated. One Rottweiler died and two others collapsed after being left

shut in a van in Portsmouth for three hours while their owner went fishing.

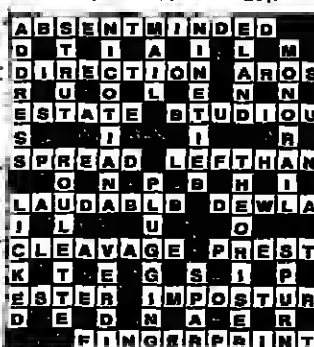
Coastguards along the south coast were called to a dozen rescues as holiday makers got into difficulties. One amateur diver was airlifted to a recompression unit in Gosport.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,306



- ACROSS**
- The Cut a feature of the old city? (6)
 - Shrub old ladies originally planted before a feast (8)
 - His chair may be used as a cradle (9)
 - Record book (5)
 - Beautiful old coin for auditors, I see (7)
 - In the Kent area, detectives rejected these pointers (7)
 - Don't start in feed sorry for this bird (5)
 - Popular expression about firm's address system (8)
 - Ruin it, for example, contriving a plot (8)
 - In public relations, one who regulates the speed of progress (5)
 - Verdian characters, one a gate-crasher (7)
- DOWN**
- Pretextual rubbish swallowed by a dramatic Cockney inspector (7)
 - Student captivated by neat Dutch town (5)
 - Following 29's specialism before 21's time (9)
 - Councillor's wife in service lung ago (8)
 - One with vicious authority, say, involved in dissension (6)
 - Not all the harem is so negligent (6)
 - Dismissal for those expected to remain in step? (8,6)
 - Copy me paid for working in lesson, do we hear? (9)
 - Inclination of Ulysses about to breathe his last (8)
 - An innovation (they, not he, understand the book) (7)
 - Boldness shown by many these days (7)
 - Wife is married without a party, showing good sense (6)
 - Discourage the heartless in communist uprising (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,305



Concise Crossword, page 15

WEATHER

England and east Wales will start dry but will cloud over during the day with a little rain by evening. West Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be mainly cloudy, with showers which could be heavy at times. Temperatures will again be a little warmer than average, especially in the South-east. Outlook: Cloudy at first, with showers over many parts, but becoming drier and brighter in the North.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Alexandria	16	SE	100	
Algiers	18	SE	100	
Amman	18	SE	100	
Antwerp	14	SE	100	
Athens	18	SE	100	
Bahia	22	SE	100	
Bombay	28	SE	100	
Buenos Aires	18	SE	100	
Calcutta	28	SE	100	
Cairo	18	SE	100	
Cardiff	14	SE	100	
Chennai	28	SE	100	
Copenhagen	14	SE	100	
Dublin	14	SE	100	
Edinburgh	14	SE	100	
Geneva	14	SE	100	
Hong Kong	28	SE	100	
London	14	SE	100	
Los Angeles	14	SE	100	
Lyons	14	SE	100	
Madrid	14	SE	100	
Manila	28	SE	100	
Moscow	14	SE	100	
Mumbai	28	SE	100	
Nairobi	18	SE	100	
Paris	14	SE	100	
Rangoon	28	SE	100	
Reykjavik	14	SE	100	
Rome	14	SE	100	
Singapore	28	SE	100	
Stockholm	14	SE	100	
Taipei	28	SE	100	
Tokyo	18	SE	100	
Ulaanbaatar	14	SE	100	
Warsaw	14	SE	100	
Wellington	14	SE	100	
Yokohama	18	SE	100	

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	14	SE	100	
Birmingham	14	SE	100	
Bristol	14	SE	100	
Cardiff	14	SE	100	
Edinburgh	14	SE	100	
Glasgow	14	SE	100	
London	14	SE	100	
Manchester	14	SE	100	
Newcastle	14	SE	100	
Nottingham	14	SE	100	
Sheffield	14	SE	100	
Sunderland	14	SE	100	
Swansea	14	SE	100	
Torquay	14	SE	100	
Wrexham	14	SE	100	

TIME WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0858 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
Gloucestershire & Essex	707
Northampton, Cambs	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Derbyshire & Leicestershire	714
Yorkshire & Cleveland	715
N.W. England	716
N.E. England	717
W. & S. Wales	718
Cumbria & Lancashire	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edinburgh & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Highland & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Islands	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 to 9 pm, 21C (69F); min 8 pm to 9 pm, 11C (52F). Wind: SE 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24 to 26 mm. Sun: 24 to 26 mm. Sea: 24 to 26 mm. Tide: 24 to 26 mm.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Bristol (14.5C); lowest day temp: London (11.5C). Wind: SE 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24 to 26 mm. Sun: 24 to 26 mm. Sea: 24 to 26 mm. Tide: 24 to 26 mm.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 to 9 pm, 21C (69F); min 8 pm to 9 pm, 11C (52F). Wind: SE 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24 to 26 mm. Sun: 24 to 26 mm. Sea: 24 to 26 mm. Tide: 24 to 26 mm.

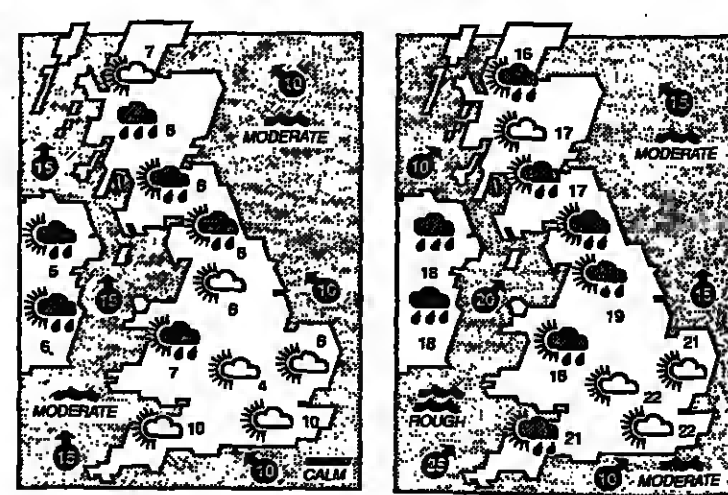
GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 to 9 pm, 20C (68F); min 8 pm to 9 pm, 10C (50F). Wind: SE 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 24 to 26 mm. Sun: 24 to 26 mm. Sea: 24 to 26 mm. Tide: 24 to 26 mm.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: 2.50pm, 6.15pm and 10pm.

AM PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Lighting-up time
London	5.05 am to 4.51 am
Bristol	5.14 pm to 5.01 am
Edinburgh	5.42 pm to 4.38 am
Manchester	5.24 pm to 4.48 am
Penzance	5.20 pm to 5.16 am

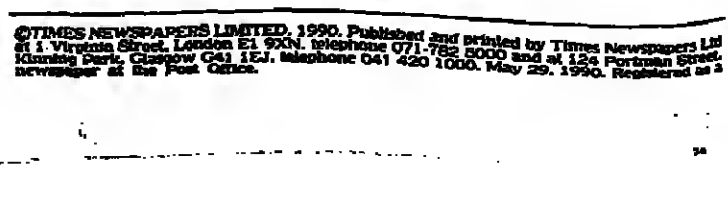
YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	17	SE	100
Birmingham	17	SE	100
Bristol	19	SE	100
Cardiff	20	SE	100
Edinburgh	17	SE	100
Glasgow	19	SE	100
London	15	SE	100
Manchester	15	SE	100
Newcastle	15	SE	100
Nottingham	15	SE	100
Sheffield	15	SE	100
Sunderland	15	SE	100
Swansea	15	SE	100
Torquay	15	SE	100
Wrexham	15	SE	100

HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	6.05	7.2
Bristol	6.05	7.2
Edinburgh	6.05	7.2
Manchester	6.05	7.2
Newcastle	6.05	7.2
Nottingham	6.05	7.2
Sheffield	6.05	7.2
Sunderland	6.05	7.2
Swansea	6.05	7.2
Torquay	6.05	7.2
Wrexham	6.05	7.2

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
● FOCUS ON BEDFORDSHIRE 29-32
● LAW 34-35
● SPORT 37-44

BUSINESS

TUESDAY MAY 29 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Tunnel's £1bn loan increased

EUROTUNNEL yesterday revealed that the European Investment Bank will increase its loan to the cross-Channel rail project from £1 billion to £1.3 billion, conditional on the successful syndication of an extra £2 billion loan around the world.

The company's syndicate of 210 banks has also approved Eurotunnel's request to continue to draw money during May.

It is expected that full details of the extra funding, £2 billion of bank loans and £500 million from shareholders, will be sent out by June 9.

Bank treaty's Paris ceremony

The five-month negotiations over the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will be officially concluded with a treaty-signing ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris tonight.

After much controversy during the negotiations, it has been agreed that the bank will be based in London, probably in Docklands, and will be headed by M. Jacques Attali, currently special economic adviser to President Mitterrand of France.

Bank launch, page 25

Bond interest 'not paid'

Bond Corporation Finance failed to pay interest due yesterday on a 6.25 per cent 1985-95 bond quoted on the Swiss over-the-counter market, according to an announcement on the Zurich Bourse.

But the short official announcement added that Bond Corporation Finance, a division of Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation, hoped to be able to make the payment with the next 10 days. The SwFr100 million (£41 million) bonds, issued in May 1985, were last quoted in Zurich over-the-counter trading at 19 per cent of their initial value.

Irish papers under threat

The management of the Dublin-based Irish Press group of newspapers has issued two-month protective notices to the 700 workers.

They gave warning that all three of the group's papers — the Irish Press, Evening Press and Sunday Press — would cease publication in July if agreement was not reached on a rationalization scheme involving about 200 redundancies.

Talks resumed at Waterford

Striking workers at Ireland's Waterford Crystal glass-making company, a Waterford Wedgwood subsidiary, voted to resume negotiations with the management almost eight weeks after downing tools.

But Mr Charlie Douglas, union leader, said the strike would continue while the talks were going on.

Electrolux bid

Electrolux, the Swedish household appliance manufacturer, said it was making a tender bid for the vacuum cleaner unit of Whirlpool Corp of the US.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6900 (same)
W German mark 2.8409 (+0.0539)
Exchange index 89.1 (+0.9)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1800.0 (+6.7)
FT-SE 100 2265.8 (-3.5)
New York Dow Jones 2820.92 (+1.01)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.25	2.175
Austria	20.85	19.58
Belgium	61.35	57.35
Canada	2.20	1.95
Denmark	11.33	10.63
France	6.59	6.39
Germany	3.21	3.13
Greece	2.36	2.79
Italy	2.85	2.69
Hong Kong	13.78	12.98
India	11.11	10.41
Japan	21.80	20.50
Netherlands	2.68	2.62
Norway	11.44	10.74
Portugal	20.50	19.50
Spain	5.00	5.00
Sweden	10.72	10.12
Switzerland	2.515	2.355
Turkey	4.85	4.75
USA	1.772	1.672
Yugoslavia	23.75	17.75

Notes for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index 125.1 (Apr)

CBI survey backs call for switch to exports

By COLIN NARRBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURING exports have recovered from last month's bout of weakness, but are failing to stem the decline in industry's overall order position, according to the latest Confederation of British Industry survey.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, has issued a warning to industry of the need to switch to export markets to offset the effects of his counter-inflationary squeeze on home demand.

But while the CBI monthly industrial trends inquiry shows manufacturers reporting a recovery in export orders this month to levels seen earlier this year, it notes a weakening in total order books.

With the recent appreciation of the

pound, in part due to market conviction that sterling will soon play a full role in the European Monetary System, exporters' prospects could worsen in the short term.

Cambridge Econometrics, in its spring report, assumes, however, that the pound will enter the EMS's exchange rate mechanism before the next General Election, probably next year, at about DM2.55, almost 30 pence below its present level.

Though CE expects unemployment to rise over the next two years, it does not foresee the current economic slowdown continuing into next year, and anticipates some easing of fiscal and monetary policy.

It sees base rates as averaging 14.8 per cent this year, falling to 10 per cent in 1992, and it expects the standard rate of income tax to be cut to 23 per cent next year from the current 25 per cent. A recovery in

housing and consumer expectations is expected to follow, with growth picking up to 2.5 per cent next year from near recession this year.

The sting in the tail will be a deterioration in the balance of payments in 1992, great pressure on sterling, and a return to 25 per cent income tax.

But CE expects ERM membership to allow underlying inflation to come down to about 4 per cent by the end of the century, in line with West Germany.

The CBI survey provides some encouragement on inflation, showing that weaker order books than in May last year have reduced companies' readiness to raise prices. A balance of only 24 per cent of firms are expecting to raise prices in the next four months, compared with 32 per cent last month. On exports, 25 per cent of

respondents reported order books above normal, the same as reported below normal. Last month, there was a negative balance of 8 per cent.

About 38 per cent of companies assessed overall orders as below normal, against only 17 per cent reporting above normal. The negative balance of 21 per cent was two percentage points worse than in April and 17 percentage points down on May last year.

Mr David Wigglesworth, the chairman of the CBI economic situation committee, saw the survey as evidence that high interest rates were taking excess demand out of the economy, despite the buoyant import picture in last week's trade figures.

Domestic orders were significantly weaker than they were a year ago, price expectations had moderated and stocks of

finished goods were now more than adequate to meet demand.

Output is still expected to increase slightly in the next four months, with a balance of 4 per cent of firms expecting higher production, against 5 per cent last month.

CE assesses the impact of the end of the Cold War, arguing that Britain will be the affected disproportionately because of its high defence budget. A 50 per cent cut in defence spending could, however, generate a 500,000 net increase in employment by the year 2000.

The Chancellor has renewed his Budget warning to financial institutions to halt marketing credit through indiscriminate mailshots. He said at the weekend that he found it "offensive" that youngsters without jobs were offered credit.

EC concern at East German merger drive

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is increasingly concerned over attempts by West German companies to establish monopolies through buying into East Germany.

This comes after a number of recent agreements involving some of West Germany's largest companies, including Deutsche Bank, Allianz, the insurance group, Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz, and their East German counterparts.

The EC's anger is enhanced by the fact that these deals fall under no merger control jurisdiction, either at community level or inside West Germany.

The EC, which under Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome has the power to intervene in agreements which are suspected of hampering competition within Europe, has no say over East Germany, which is not part of the community.

The West German anti-trust authorities, most notably the Federal Cartel Office in Berlin, are faced with similar problems, since their brief is limited to watching over competition in the Federal Republic.

The loophole in the merger control jurisdiction has turned East Germany into an effective free-for-all, for anyone who wants to expand market share.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the EC and commissioner in charge of competition policy, met Herr Wolfgang Kartte, president of the

Federal Cartel Office, for the first time two weeks ago to discuss the implications. Their concern is shared by Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German economics minister, who has put pressure on East Germany to block some of the deals.

East Germany has now begun, with the help of the Federal Cartel Office, to establish an anti-trust office in East Berlin. Legislation is also in preparation to adopt the West German cartel laws, although this is not expected to be completed in time to stop some of the current agreements. Most are expected to be signed shortly after July 2, when economic and currency union becomes effective.

At present the final say over any agreement is left with the East German government, which so far has taken the attitude that resourceful West German firms, like Deutsche Bank and Allianz, are more beneficial for the East German economy and the East German people than "perfect margin-squeezing competition," in the words of one West German official.

In a recent speech in Bonn, Sir Leon said: "In this period before unification there is a risk that anti-competitive structures may be established by agreements made between Kombinate (East German state-owned conglomerates) and dominant West German firms. The Commission is concerned by these develop-

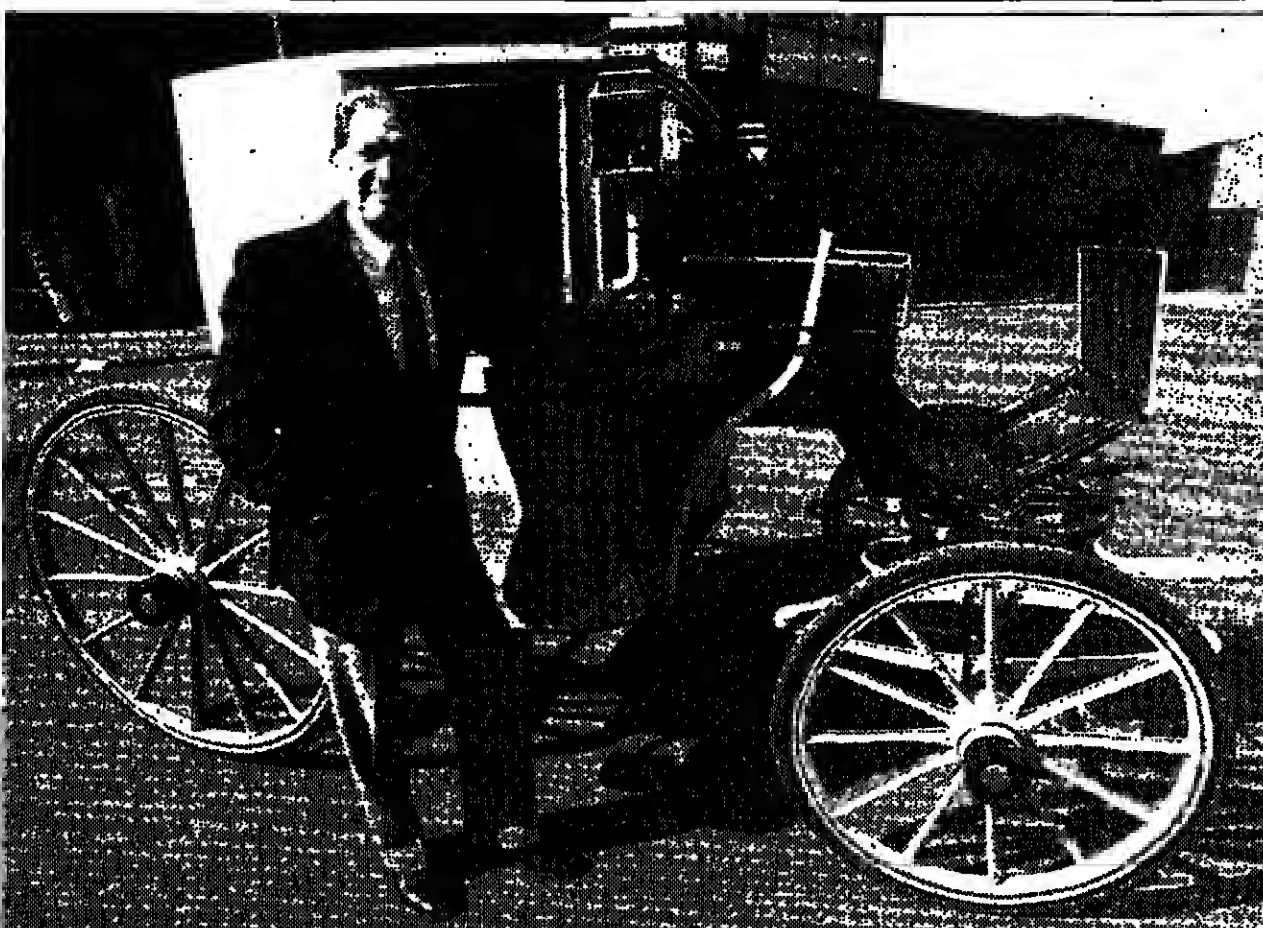
ments... We cannot allow the goal of the single market to be obstructed by agreements and mergers that distort rather than promote competition."

The Federal Cartel Office is particularly concerned about the agreements between Allianz, Europe's largest insurance group, and the state-owned East German insurance group, and between Deutsche Bank and Kreditbank.

The car industry has been another sector prone to joint venture agreements, in particular IFA, the East German vehicle conglomerate, which has come to agreements with Volkswagen over a joint car plant and with Daimler-Benz over a joint venture on the production of trucks.

Although East Germany is expected to become part of the EC after re-unification, the Commission will still not have the powers to unwind mergers which have been concluded before then. The EC's only remedy would be the use of its powers under Article 86 to force companies either to divest in certain limited areas or to facilitate market entry for new competitors.

But this, and even more direct threats from the Federal Cartel Office, have done little to keep West German companies at bay. So far the number of joint ventures between East and West German companies is estimated to run at about 700 since the start of the year.



Brougham for Landau: Sir Dennis Landau, the CWS chief, on one of a fleet of historical horse-drawn vehicles built up by the Scottish Midland Co-op, which has a coachworks that holds the royal warrant for coach repairs

Co-op takes hard line on quality

RETAIL co-operatives with substantial shops that are dragging down the image of the Co-op as a whole could soon lose their licences to use the white and blue Co-op logo (Derek Harris writes).

The move was announced at the Glasgow meeting of the Co-operative Congress, the annual parliament of the Co-operative movement.

It came after delegates representing the 80 retail societies around Britain were told that the Co-op as a whole successfully held on to its market share last year, with turnover rising 8.5 per cent to a record £6.25 billion.

Trading surplus, virtually the equivalent of pre-tax

profit, was up more than 17 per cent at £129 million (£110 million). With market share in all trade segments, including non-food, at 4.4 per cent for the second year running, a 20-year downward market share trend may have been halted.

That much now rides on the Co-op's ability to match the best of the competition to the best of the Co-operative Union, the movement's organizing body, Mr Frank Croft, finance services manager of the Central Midlands society, said the logo should remain and the standard of all Co-op outlets raised to competitive levels. Delegates swung against changes to the logo by a majority of almost 10 to one. The Co-op's image

is not its only problem. The financial results survey showed. High interest rates are hitting some societies as the push into new stores continues. Interest charges more than doubled to £29 million (£14 million).

Profits as a proportion of sales have moved to 2.2 per cent from 2.1 per cent. While some high street rivals are achieving returns of 6 per cent or more, only a handful of the retail societies are securing more than 4 per cent.

The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) launched its "green" unit trust, Environ. It will invest in companies likely to benefit from greater environmental awareness.

intervened in a debate on whether the logo, launched 22 years ago, should be changed. Sir Dennis said there was neither a need for a new logo nor was it a practical proposition to change it completely, although there might be a need to review it from time to time.

Speaking for the central executive of the Co-operative Union, the movement's organizing body, Mr Frank Croft, finance services manager of the Central Midlands society, said the logo should remain and the standard of all Co-op outlets raised to competitive levels. Delegates swung against changes to the logo by a majority of almost 10 to one. The Co-op's image

UB 'has just 41% of Dutch group'

By GEORGE SIVELL

UNITED Biscuits has run into problems with its planned £86 million "friendly" acquisition of the Dutch chocolate and biscuit manufacturer Koninklijke Verkeade.

The deal, recommended by Verkeade directors in March, was the first move by the food group to secure a foothold in Europe.

It has been followed by the acquisition of the much smaller Industria Confezzioni Alimentari, Italy's second biggest snacks company.

Verkeade's shares were suspended on the Amsterdam bourse yesterday morning, after which a spokesman for the Dutch company said that United Biscuits had picked up only 41 per cent of its shares by last Friday, the deadline for acceptance.

The deal has been recommended by Verkeade directors, but a group of shareholders, speaking for about 45 per cent of the shares, have held out for an offer of 500 guilders

(£156.2) a share, against the £140 offered by United Biscuits.

That United offered worked out at an exit multiple of 22 times Verkeade's earnings — justified by the need to gain a strategic foothold.

Payment of £150 would take United Biscuits up to almost the 28 times that BSN group of France paid for Nabisco's biscuit business two years ago.

Yesterday, Mr Han Vermeulen, of Van Meer James Capel, which represents the 45 per cent shareholder group, said they had offered to accept about £145 from United Biscuits in talks held in Amsterdam on Sunday.

Mr Erik Beelaerts van Blokland, a Dutch adviser to United Biscuits, confirmed that a meeting had taken place over the price, but that United was still evaluating the situation.

A joint announcement is expected to be made today.

US bank to fight County action

By OUR CITY STAFF

DILLON Read Ltd, British arm of the US investment bank Dillon Read, intends to fight a legal action brought against it by County NatWest aimed at making DRI contribute towards compensation for investors who lost money when the £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue flopped in 1987.

County, the merchant banking arm of National Westminster Bank, opened an action in the High Court this month which seeks to join DRI in a legal action brought against County over the rights issue.

An improved compensation offer from County, extending its initial £30 million offer to investors and underwriters who took stock in the placing after the rights issue flop, is expected soon.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the Swiss-owned investment bank, was reported at the weekend to have topped the County compensation offer. DRI said that County's

claim was "entirely without foundation."

It noted that, unlike County and its executives, DRI, sub-underwriter to the rights issue, was not criticized in the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors' report on the Blue Arrow affair.

The inquiry into the Blue Arrow takeover of Manpower, the US employment agency, led to 11 charges of conspiracy to defraud being brought against staff, or former staff, of County and P&D. Neither DRI nor any of its executives have been charged.

DRI said it suffered "significant losses" as a result of being "induced by County NatWest to purchase Blue Arrow shares."

DRI intended to "press its position vigorously against County NatWest" in the pending legal action.

County, lead adviser on the issue, is being sued by three GEC pension funds which suffered £5.58 million losses.

Steely lack of ministers in Brussels

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government's refusal to send a minister to yesterday's meeting in Brussels of the European Industry Council has been criticized by Labour MPs. All other EC states, except the Netherlands, were represented at ministerial level.

Although the Department of Trade and Industry dismissed the meeting as "extremely routine," most EC members sent senior ministers, with West Germany sending two. Sir David Hannay, the outgoing British permanent representative, stood in for Britain while Portugal and the Irish Republic were represented by junior ministers. The Dutch Minister for Economic Affairs cancelled and sent an ambassador.

The agenda included the EC five-year plan for the steel industry, small businesses and research and development.

The decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, not to attend nor to send one of his DTI ministers was described as "disgraceful" by Mr Gordon Brown, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary.

Mr Brown said: "I want an immediate explanation for the absence of Mr Ridley or any DTI ministers at today's European Industry Council ministerial meeting where vital policy issues in steel, shipbuilding, high-definition TV and regional policy are under discussion."

"It is disgraceful that no industry minister is bailing for Britain in Europe today when behind the closure of the Ravenscraig strip mill and the threat to the Scottish steel industry, and the 1,000 jobs lost at Brynmawr in Wales, lie critical unanswered questions about future European steel trends."

He added: "As a result of this most

glaring illustration yet of the dereliction of duty on industrial matters, and the wholesale abandonment of responsibility by the Government, Britain is likely to lose out yet again from the carelessness, do-nothing neglect and inertia of Mr Ridley and his ministers."

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, said: "These meetings at this level are always attended by ministers and from my own knowledge it would be unthinkable that other EC countries are not represented by their own ministers today."

"These are crucial issues and the fact that we are represented only by an official means that ministers from other countries could be running rings round us. We are not going to have the same kind of clout being represented merely by a civil servant when our EC partners will have ministers in attendance."

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Interest rates 'will force slump in UK car demand'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR sales in Britain will lag behind the rest of Europe this year as high interest rates force a slump in demand which will depress the market until 1992, according to forecasts issued yesterday by DRI/McGraw-Hill.

The financial and economic information company's automotive group says that total sales in Western Europe will fall for the first time since 1984, after a period of sustained growth.

Britain has helped fuel that growth with sales achieving a record last year of 2.3 million. However, registrations will fall this year with DRI forecasting sales at fewer than 2.1 million and reaching only 2.27 million in 1994.

At the same time, a revival of the economy in France will see growth in sales while the market in West Germany will be powered by the surge in buying power from East Germany. Spain is the only other Western European nation expected to show a slight fall in sales.

Despite the easing of the British market, the UK is expected to be a key centre for growth in production in the next five years, alongside Eastern Europe, which will see dramatic rises in output and sales. Massive investment by

three major Japanese companies — Honda, Toyota and Nissan — holds out hope of a resurgence of UK production in the mid to late 1990s.

Although output will fall back slightly this year from 1989's 1.3 million to 1.28 million, because of the slump in home demand, it will revive to top the 1.58 million mark in 1994.

The DRI World Automotive Forecast adds that in the Eastern bloc, registrations are forecast to rise 30 per cent to 2.94 million vehicles while production will grow by 34 per cent to 3.26 million.

The review team says: "The obvious consequence of this is that exports from the Eastern European countries are forecast to rise by close to 90 per cent to 330,000 against 179,000 in 1989."

From a position in which buyers in the East are forced to wait up to 10 years for cars, Soviet production alone is expected to rise by 35 per cent and sales by 34 per cent to 1.7 million.

That helps to make world prospects "mostly good", with global demand for passenger cars not expected to turn down until the mid-1990s, despite the difficulties in the US, now in its second successive year of decline.

Rising yen boosts shares in Tokyo

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

THE yen's recovery on currency markets helped share prices rise sharply in Tokyo.

The Nikkei index, which climbed 482.13 points on Friday, gained another 397.73 points to close at 33,191.61. The dollar slipped ¥0.60 to end the day at ¥149.45.

Mr Paul Summerville, an economist at Jardine Fleming, the stockbroker, said: "There is a major change of sentiment towards the dollar, and everyone has come to the conclusion that interest rates in the US won't go up."

"There has also been a major change towards the Deutschmark. You're beginning to see it disintegrate around the edges as people begin asking the hard questions about the full cost of German economic and monetary union. As a result of these factors, the yen is rising. And on the back of the yen the stock market is climbing," he added.

The yen's collapse against the dollar this year was a key factor in bucking confidence in Japanese equities as the Bank of Japan raised interest rates to support the currency. Japanese industry now seems to think that the worst is over and that domestic borrowing costs may soon fall.

That helps to make world prospects "mostly good", with global demand for passenger cars not expected to turn down until the mid-1990s, despite the difficulties in the US, now in its second successive year of decline.

One trader said: "The higher yen, firmer bond



Mieno: inflation battle

prices, lower long-term interest rates and lower oil prices are coaxing investors off the sidelines."

Mr Yoshio Ogawa, general manager of equities trading at Nikko Securities, said: "Although trading for the new month is to get under way on Tuesday, people just couldn't wait another day to get started. Being the last trading day for May should have made it hard for the market to move."

But it is still uncertain how long Tokyo can sustain its present recovery. Few analysts in Tokyo feel that the Nikkei will sink back to the 28,000 level it plumed two months ago. But even fewer foresee a renewed boom.

Mr Summerville believes that the yen's current recovery could prove short-lived, in-

jecting nervousness back into the stock market.

He said: "The market is deluding itself that we are going to see new taxes in the US any time soon, and with the core rate of US inflation over 4 per cent I don't think there's any room to lower US interest rates in the short term."

With Mr Yasushi Mieno, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, determined to keep inflation in Japan low, however painful the medicine, a new setback for the yen could swiftly be translated into higher interest rates and send Tokyo share prices back into the doldrums.

The markets in London and New York were closed for national public holidays.

● Frankfurt — Shares closed mixed in lacklustre trade, with holidays in London and New York contributing to market lethargy and keeping volume low. The 30-share DAX index closed 5.79 points higher at 1,828.96.

● Sydney — Shares finished firmer, reversing a downward course after a lower than expected April balance of payments deficit, brokers said. The All-Ordinaries index ended 5.5 points up at 1,485.2, its high for the day, on fairly thin volumes.

● Singapore — The Straits Times index closed down 8.02 points at 1,557.33.

Two Dutch banks plan £406m rights issue

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ALGEMENE Bank Nederland (ABN) and Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank (Amro) are planning a 1.3 billion guilder (£406 million) rights issue and a share swap in conjunction with their proposed merger this autumn.

The merger will create a bank with joint assets of Dfl353 billion, making it the sixth largest in Europe.

The first stage will involve the establishment of a new holding company, ABN Amro Holding. The aim is to fully integrate the banks' activities by 1994 as ABN Amro Bank.

Shareholders in the two banks will be offered shares in the new holding company in exchange for their Amro or ABN shares.

The preference stock rights issue is to finance expansion. Price details will be published with the merger document.

Dividends on the preference shares will be based on the effective yield of Dutch state bonds with long maturities. Shares in the new holding company may be entitled to interim and final dividends for 1990, depending on the exact timing of the tie-up.

Mr Roelof Nelissen, Amro chairman, will head the management board of the new holding company for the first two years.

GILT-EDGED

An act of faith that could be entirely wrong

The gilt market has responded in spectacular fashion over the past three weeks to the growing belief that the Prime Minister will not veto entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The long end of the market is about 5 per cent higher than the lowest level reached at the end of April, having been a further 2 per cent higher. Other indicators of interest rate sentiment are also giving bullish signals — September short sterling futures, for instance, appear to be discounting a half-point fall in base rates by the end of September.

The market's reaction is really based on a political judgement, engendered by the *de facto* start of campaigning for a general election in mid or late 1991. The hope is twofold: ERM entry will (somehow) bring Britain into a low inflation economy, while helping the Conservatives to gain momentum to win the election.

The reality is likely to be different. The markets, it is true, do traditionally like Conservative governments and this faith does not appear to have been shaken by the imbroglio of monetary policy over the past three or four years.

Unfortunately, as everyone now recognizes, the chosen weapon of high interest rates to slow the overheated economy works in a very patchy way. Some areas, such as construction and housing, have slowed down.

Others, including consumer spending, are only responding to the medicine in a very muted fashion, as the figures for imports and retail sales attest. And profits and wages remain buoyant as domestic demand is reinforced by overseas demand because of the fall in sterling over the past year.

In an ideal world, the Government needs to see clear signs of further slowing in the economy now to be able to deliver the required monetary boost to help it win the election. If the boost is delivered before the slowdown, the gilt market should watch out: this could well risk ratcheting up long-term inflation expectations and lead to problems after the election.

It has been suggested that ERM entry at the end of this year will help, on the one hand by allowing interest rates to fall and on the other by reducing inflationary expectations due to the belief that sterling will be supported in the system. However, this suggestion depends for its validity on essentially political assumptions, which may not be correct.

For ERM entry to reduce inflationary expectations, the political will must be there to defend sterling within the system and not allow it to be gradually devalued in repeated realignments of the

system after our entry. This is the key political assumption — is it valid for Britain?

Intervention in the ERM is triggered under various circumstances, but broadly speaking a currency under pressure has to be defended mainly by its own country. Sooner or later sterling would come under pressure within the system, even if British interest rates remain high, as the markets test our resolve to defend the pound.

In addition, other central banks may wish to prevent their own currencies from becoming too high against the pound. The attitude of the Bundesbank will be crucial here, as at bottom the EMS is a mark system, and with the developments in Eastern Europe will no doubt become even more so. The psychological effect of Bundesbank intervention will be considerable.

We started, in the analysis of British monetary policy, with a position of untrammelled, unrestricted authority over monetary policy by the British Government. The Government will naturally use this authority to influence economic variables to present a favourable picture to the voters at the general election.

Now we have a situation which might reduce that freedom of action in theory, if the Government does place a greater emphasis on defending the currency and, thereby, pegging the pound against the mark.

Given the attitude of the Bundesbank to inflation, this would, over a period of years, reduce British inflation to much closer to German levels. Something like this has happened to France — it needed both the EMS and a political commitment to defend the franc.

However, in Britain there could be a political price to pay if this policy were followed — in effect, the Bundesbank would be an important influence on British politics as it tightened or relaxed monetary policy in Germany. The electoral fortunes of the Government would depend on this factor.

Speaking as a gilt market-maker, of course it would be wonderful if Britain's inflation fell to German levels. However, I remain sceptical as to how much discretion any British Government is really willing to concede over monetary policy.

For the markets to go on speculation of full EMS entry is understandable but is really an act of faith that could well be quite wrong. The reality of entry is likely to be rather different to what the market seems to expect. It is a case of buy on rumour, sell on fact.

Richard Golding

Head of Sterling

Debt Trading

Kleinwort Benson

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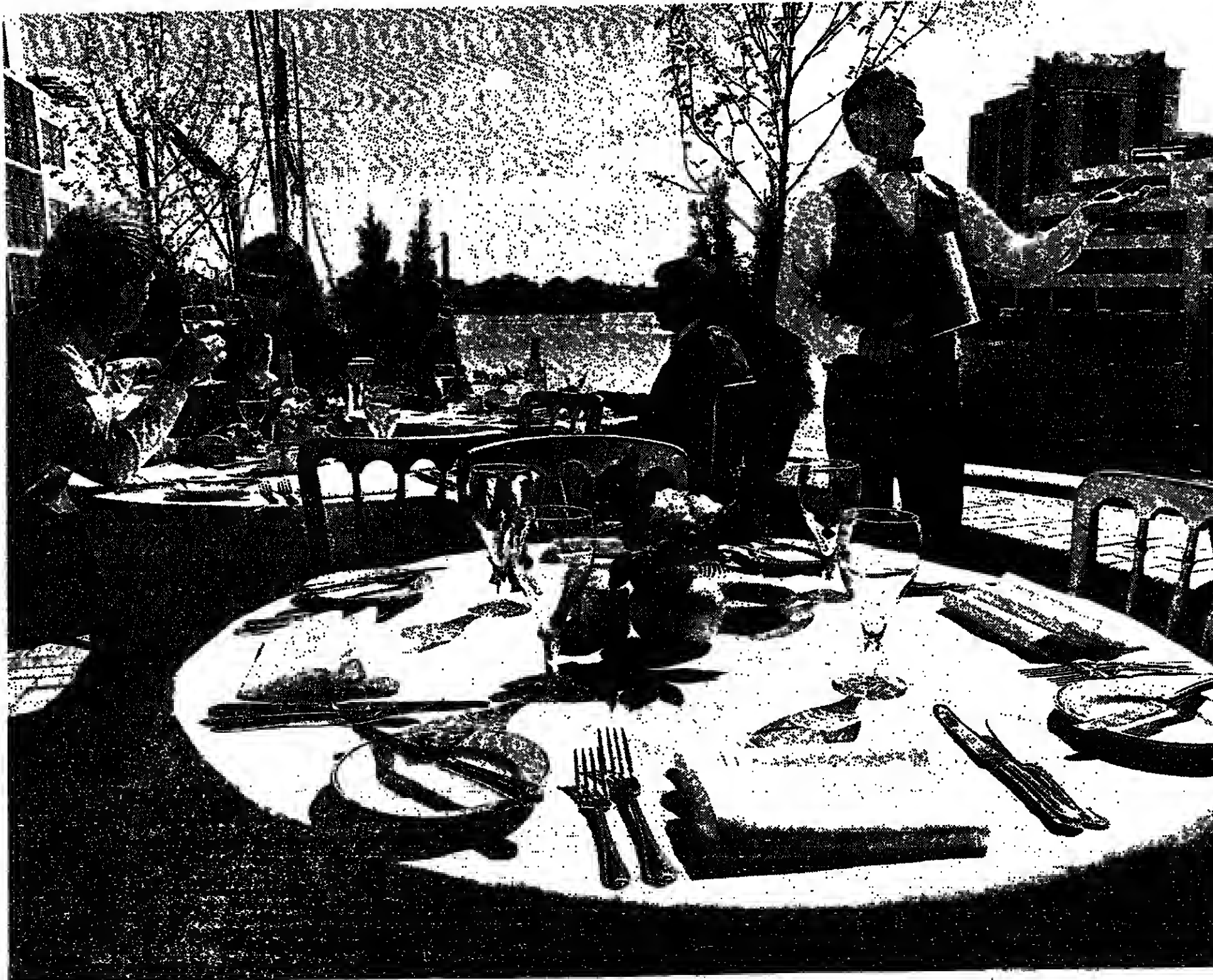
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Hewlett-Packard focuses on Europe

By DEREK HARRIS
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HEWLETT-PACKARD, the US-based electronic instruments group with big manufacturing interests in Britain and West Germany, is looking outside its home market, and especially to Europe, to enliven its faltering performance.

With its 60 per cent reliance on computer products, Hewlett-Packard's profits have declined despite sales increases.

In its first half to the end of April its revenues at \$6.4 billion were up 16 per cent — compared with a traditional growth rate of nearly 20 per cent — while pre-tax profits at \$513 million were down 9 per cent, all compared with the same period a year before. Just over half the company's sales are outside the US.

Control of costs is now at the top of the company's agenda. There has already been a reduction of 2,000 jobs worldwide, leaving its workforce total still at more than 90,000.

The head of European operations, Mr Franco Mariotti, a senior vice-president, said: "The European market is more solid than that in the United States now."

He was not worried about possible investment cutbacks by industry in Britain, if only because Hewlett-Packard's British plants have developed exports so successfully.

In Bristol, Hewlett-Packard has one of its few long-term research centres outside the US — it has nearly 200 people working on information technology developments there and alongside there is manufacture of mass-storage com-



Mariotti: faith in Britain

puter peripherals such as computer disc and tape drives. More than 80 per cent of Bristol production is exported.

There is an export element of 70 per cent at South Queensferry, near Edinburgh, where Hewlett-Packard employs about 1,000 in printed circuit production, telecommunications systems and microwave applications for mobile communications, radio frequency communications and cellular radio.

More manufacturing centres around Europe are likely to be established over the next few years, with Italy as a front runner. Eastern Europe is also sharply in Hewlett-Packard's sights.

Mr Tim McCollum, a senior analyst at Dean Witter, the Wall Street broker, said there are currently a dozen or so big players in computer hardware manufacturing, but he thought there would be only five within 10 years.

He expected IBM to be one of the big five survivors — and Hewlett-Packard.

Taking a broad-minded view of ERM

ECONOMIC VIEW

RODNEY LORD

The newly constituted shadow monetary committee convened by the Institute of Economic Affairs had plenty to talk about when its members gathered for their first meeting last week.

With trade figures suggesting the squeeze on domestic demand is still far from achieving its aim, money supply figures indicating M0 growing even further above target, and the prospect of joining the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System sending markets into hysteria, the committee has come into existence at a pregnant moment.

Few market economists — and that includes members of the committee — think a rise in interest rates either necessary or wise. But most are concerned about the implications of recent statistics and are uneasy that the present squeeze is not working, or is not working fast enough. Though some of the committee think interest rates should be higher in an ideal world, all recognized the risks involved and the political difficulties.

Where the group found it hard to agree — probably harder than

the rest of the world — was in what to do about it. The three topics tackled by the committee were Britain's entry to the ERM, the appropriate level of interest rates, and mechanisms of monetary control — roughly in that order of priority.

While the committee includes a number of "mainstream" thinkers, it also includes some well-known opponents of ERM membership, including Sir Alan Walters, Patrick Minford and, to some extent, Geoffrey Wood. The other members of the committee are Tim Congdon, Gordon Pepper, Giles Keating, Peter Spencer and Bill Martin, not all of whom were at last week's meeting.

The consensus emerging from the committee is that the least bad option may be to join the ERM with a wide permitted band of fluctuation. The worry about joining with the standard narrow band is that it might exactly repeat the policy mistake of the

spring of 1988. At that time interest rates were reduced to contain the upward movement in sterling and as a result the domestic squeeze was loosened.

As the recent buoyancy in sterling indicates, joining the ERM with a narrow permitted band of fluctuation could have a similar effect.

The reduction in the exchange rate risk would cause investors to buy pounds and interest rates would have to be cut to prevent the currency floating out of the top end of the range. That would relax the squeeze well before inflationary pressures had been brought under control — *vide* the latest trade and money figures.

The objection is really one of timing. It would be perfectly

acceptable to join the ERM once the underlying level of inflation in Britain had fallen to around the Continental average or below. Interest rates could then fall in safety so that the reduced exchange rate risk would be less worth having because the yield on British instruments would be that much less attractive. But this seems increasingly unlikely to occur before an election.

The option of a wide band is nothing more or less than splitting the difference between joining and not joining. The joiners believe it would provide at least some of the discipline and credibility of full membership, the sceptics find it attractive precisely because Britain would not be committed

to a narrowly defined exchange rate. An element of exchange rate uncertainty would remain, especially if it were clear that the option of parity adjustment were still there, necessitating the continuation of high interest rates.

The main dissident is Giles Keating of Credit Suisse First Boston, who was not at the meeting. He favours entering the ERM at a relatively high exchange rate, setting the band high enough so that the pound starts at the bottom end and floats upwards on high interest rates. Others object that this puts all the pressure on the traded sector, which hardly seems the right balance when the trade deficit is as big as it is.

Discussion of techniques of monetary control was desultory in the absence of Gordon Pepper. But there was little support for monetary base control — at least in the present uncertainty.

The idea of the committee

springs from the shadow open market committee in the US, which is a group of leading private-sector economists meeting regularly to discuss the same issues as the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee. Like the shadow open market committee, it will produce a summary of its discussion in about a fortnight's time, with short essays on particular topics, though the parallel with the US group is not exact.

Eight good men and true are not by themselves going to put the monetary world to rights overnight. Nevertheless Robert Miller's idea looks like a good one.

A co-ordinated monetary ginger group is likely to have more impact than several different voices crying in the wilderness. We are far from overloaded with institutions equipped to exercise the kind of technical, as opposed to political, audit of government policy which a shadow Federal Open Market Committee can.

The authorities might respond by publishing minutes of their own deliberations.

Question that hangs over the new Euro bank

THE people of Eastern Europe must be bewildered by the sheer number of Western institutions whose job it is to provide capital. There are the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as various affiliates such as the International Finance Corporation. All have established Eastern European departments.

In Paris today, yet another such body will be inaugurated in the form of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — Berd, according to its French acronym, or EBRD according to the Bank of England (a consensus has yet to be established).

There is something typically European about the bank in that the lagging over its president and the location of its headquarters became the most controversial issues during the negotiations among the participating countries and institutions, of which there are more than 40. In comparison, agreement on the bank's capital, its shareholdings and investment priorities, took rather less time.

There must, however, be a question mark about the usefulness of yet another institution. Each requires its own infrastructure, and there will undoubtedly be an overlap of bureaucracy, research efforts and official visits. There are few convincing reasons why a separate bank was necessary in the first place, and why its Ecu10 billion (£7.3 billion) could not have been used to prop up the IMF or World Bank's existing Eastern European budgets.

One argument was that this would have met with opposition from Latin American countries, who would take offence at being excluded from an IMF or World Bank budget increase. However, such criticisms are already being voiced. Whether the US and the European Community set aside funds for Eastern Europe within or outside the existing framework matters little in this context.

EBRD's supporters will, however, point out that the bank is different to any of the other institutions — a kind of combined World Bank and investment bank. Only 40 per cent of its capital will go to the



A helping hand: East Berliners buy Western bread, with money raised going towards aid programmes

public sector, while the rest will finance private sector projects, including privatizations and joint ventures, on an equity or loan basis. On the surface, the bank's founding shareholders appear to have heeded the lessons from the sovereign lending of the early 1980s, which left Poland, for

example, \$39 billion in debt. Yet there is an argument that the logic behind funding private sector projects may also be flawed. There is no shortage of capital in the West, and Western companies are moving into Eastern Europe. The main factors that hold them back are lack of experi-

ence and information, and, more crucially, lack of infrastructure in Eastern Europe.

The scope for improving Eastern Europe's telecommunications remains limited due to Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls rules, which although designed to prevent exports of defence-sensitive products, cover items such as pocket calculators.

Western Europe and the US have spent more time recently discussing the relatively small EBRD itself than establishing the conditions under which it, or private sector companies, can operate. M Jacques Attali, the bank's president-designate and adviser to President François Mitterrand, had promised that infrastructure, and telecommunications in particular, would enjoy a high priority.

But the road to recovery in Eastern Europe is blocked by another problem. The new democratically-elected governments of the region may be attempting to break away from the past, but they are left with one of communism's most crippling legacies — debt.

Poland may have done everything the West and the IMF would ever have dared to suggest in terms of economic reform, including the abolition of subsidies and the imposition of high interest rates. But the external debt — which in Poland's case amounts to five times convertible export earnings (and more than three times the bank's entire capital) — will remain a burden for some time. The issue of debt forgiveness, a spectre which still haunts Western banks, may return with a vengeance, if the adjustment programmes become unpopular.

If the Marshall Plan had been given to Western Europe at today's prices, it would have amounted to about \$400 billion. As of yet, there are no signs of a similar programme for Eastern Europe. The EBRD, with its Ecu10 billion capital, operates in a different league. The bank may have satisfied French egos and London property salesmen, but whether it can live up to its ambitious name remains doubtful.

Wolfgang Münchau

Polly pecks at its image problem

THE clever batch of deals from Polly Peck last week is still a talking point. Maybe this time, its City fans hope, the group will be given full credit for its successes.

Perhaps a name change would help: "Polly Peck" retains the flavour of the company's East End rag trade origins that are difficult to reconcile with the image of an international produce and electronics group capitalized at £1.7 billion.

The deals that will transform Polly Peck's debt-laden balance sheet involved the injection of two of its electronics companies, Imperial and Capetronic, into the third and most interesting one, Sansui. The troubled Sansui, which was effectively rescued by Polly Peck's purchase of a 51 per cent stake, is paying more than £300 million for its acquisitions via a share issue and thus feeding some cash into the parent company's balance sheet. Polly Peck winds up with 70 per cent of a much stronger Sansui.

The outline of this transaction had been well signalled to the market. The surprise was the planned flotation of Polly Peck's Turkish electron-

ics subsidiary on the Istanbul market at a p/e of 16, yielding £70 million cash from the sale of 15 per cent.

Taken with the recent sale and leaseback of ships that Polly Peck acquired with the Del Monte fresh fruit interests, all of this amounts to radical balance sheet reshaping. Gearing of 155 per cent at the year-end, swollen through the strategically important Del Monte purchase, slumps to just 65 per cent. And there is scope for much more.

A partial sale of Del Monte stock in the US is under consideration. And as Sansui, with its strong brand position in the US and Japanese markets, continues to recover, a similar exercise is likely.

The value investor team at BZW, which aims to identify stocks at a large discount to the worth of their underlying asset value, has been a strong supporter of Polly Peck shares for some time. Its latest analysis throws up some dazzling numbers.

The key blocks in the valuation are the food division, which at 11.5 times earnings weighs in at £1.9 billion; the issue price of Vestel and the market capital-

ization of Sansui give a total of £843 million for the two share stakes; and cash chips in £100 million. The total, £2.9 billion, gives a value per share of 687p compared with the 407p market price. Even applying a notional 15 per cent investment trust discount throws up a value of 583p.

On these figures and a modest prospective p/e of 8.5 times, Polly Peck shares clearly merit a better rating.

Speyhawk

FEW chairman's statements will be as eagerly awaited as that due tomorrow from Mr Trevnr Osborne, of Speyhawk, the developer.

After all, a chairman who has had to watch his company's share price slide from 354p to 96p in three months, can be expected to have a lot to say.

The share price has recovered to 165p, but Mr Osborne will have to sound the right note of realism to reassure the City that Speyhawk and Sheraton Securities have no more in common than a first letter.

The City will be looking for re-assurance from a company

with one of the biggest development programmes in the sector as to how it is all being paid for.

Property company interims can no longer be ignored. Property may be all about asset growth, but if your income falls in cover your interest charge those assets could end up belonging to someone else all too quickly.

Given Mr Osborne's spirited defence of his company over the past weeks, it would be astonishing if tomorrow's results contain any really nasty surprises.

But that is not the end of Speyhawk's problem. Like MEPC, its year-end is September, a month when the property market is expected to be still getting worse before it gets better. Forecasts for pre-tax profits are being revised downwards almost by the week, as the period of high interest rates continues. Something under half last year's £30 million looks on the cards.

But, more importantly for a company hoping to put its earnings-driven days behind it, last year's net asset value of 533p could also come under downward pressure.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hot under the collar

THE choice of venue for an annual meeting could land a company in court — if a strictly enforced dress code means that shareholders are refused entry. Retired ICI employee Tim Watling, who travelled from his Uxbridge home to attend the annual meeting of UBA (Developments) at the RAC Club, in Pall Mall, was turned away by a porter because he was not wearing a tie. "I was wearing a suit, a townie shirt and a roundneck pullover," he says. He declined the porter's offer of a spare tie because "You never know whose neck it has been around before." But he was extremely angry at this being effectively disenfranchised. "I was more than a little annoyed," he says. "Shareholders should be encouraged to attend the AGM's of their companies however badly those companies may be performing." And UBA Developments — a BES theatre and film pre-production company whose chairman is Lord Stockton — should perhaps be aware that under section 439 of the Companies Act 1985 a shareholder can take a company to court if its affairs "are being conducted in a manner which is unfairly prejudicial to the shareholders or himself."

Jarai for Capel

JAMES Capel, the broker, which has lost a number of key UK employees, has scored something of an Eastern Euro-

pean coup by persuading the Hungarian deputy finance minister, Dr Zsigmond Jarai, to join its Eastern European development department as a senior executive. Jarai, aged 39, who holds an economics degree from Karl-Marx University in Budapest, will join James Capel's London office on September 1. His term in government is due to finish shortly when the new centre-right government under Jozsef Antall, Hungary's prime minister designate, takes over. Jarai, who was approached by banks from Japan, West Germany and Austria, is also head of state banking and securities supervision at the Hungarian finance ministry. Previously he was chairman of the Hungarian stock exchange council, and deputy managing director of the Budapest Bank, one of Hungary's first commercial banks. Mark Odessalchi, head of James Capel's Eastern



"I suspect a break-out."

European unit, admits that the firm is now taking a particular interest in Eastern European privatization projects.

Square meals

WITH the traditional leisurely luncheon still the most important part of the City's working day — since these days it is the one opportunity brokers and clients get in chat without the intrusion of all-hearing tape recorders — two former City workers have given up their jobs to launch their own restaurant guide business. And their most significant publication is a guide covering 170 restaurants and wine bars in and around the Square Mile. Mark de Wesselow, once a fund manager at BZW, and Simon White, hitherto an accountant with Peat Marwick in Puddle Dock, are this week publishing their 44-page booklet *Square Meal*, with 60,000 complimentary copies being distributed in City firms and restaurants.

Ship's holed

GRAHAM Axford, aged 44, the head of corporate finance at James Capel, switches from being managing director to a two-day-a-week consultant on Thursday. Axford, who is off to devote more time to both the Power Corporation — the 19th largest property company in the UK — and Inter-City Property, where he is a consultant, as well as the Wiltshire Brewery, where he is chairman, tells me that Wiltshire has bought its first London

pub, The Ship & Blue Bell, off Shoreditch High Street. In an upstairs room is a secret inner chamber, where the Great Train Robbery is said to have been planned. "There's still a hole in the wall, where the police smashed their way through, after the robbery, in the belief that that was where the money was stashed," says Axford.

Vulture culture

HUSHED talk in informed circles is of a new and fearful predator — with a taste for ailing property companies. They are aptly described as "vulture funds," since they are, in effect, consortiums put together by "cash is king" businessmen intent on making a fast buck from the property slump. One insider told me: "People are secretly putting together massive funds, but don't want any publicity. They want to sit quietly on top of the fence, watching and waiting." But, if forewarned is forearmed, they may have met their match in David Jenkins, a partner at Touche Ross, which does the books for construction groups such as Taylor Woodrow and Trafalgar House. Jenkins, chairman of the firm's construction division — who has a reputation for falling asleep during opera recitals — tells me that the men behind these vulture funds bide their time and then swoop on hapless companies, taking up to 40 per cent of the equity in return for desperately needed cash.

Carol Leonard

Portfolio

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[illegible]

66.0m	Griders	180	8.2	5.1	8.3
75.1m	Br Land (2a)	334	15.9
263.4m	Bendon	173	6.1	4.7	18.8

147.1n	Chesapeake	755	..	23.5	3.1	22.0
18.6n	Chesapeake	73	+1	5.8	1.3	5.8
3,063.0n	Citigroup	375	..	6.5	12.5	6.5
29.6n	Citigroup	97	..	4.0	7.1	4.0
60.8n	Cleveland	169	+0.13	18.3	7.3	4.5
21.1n	Cleveland	35	+1	12.0	9.3	11.1
15.5n	Coastal	135	..	1.0	1.0	1.0
7,836.0n	Cummins	110	-0.5	12.3	11.2	4.2
119.5n	Danaher	715	..	29.3	4.1	5.5
1.1n	Danaher	27	..	0.8	0.8	0.8
31.4n	Danaher	100	..	9.9	9.6	8.5
4,923.0n	De Morgan	28	+1	4.7	15.0	2.9
28.5n	Delphia	171	..	1.0	1.0	1.0
1.1n	Delphia	723	..	1.0	1.4	0.4
53.8n	Delphi	63	-0.12	1.5	2.9	11.7
96.2n	Egyptian Trust	134	..	18.3	0.0	5.5
1.1n	Egyptian Trust	134	..	1.0	1.0	1.0

147.5	Progenies	370	+7	13.1	4.1	12.8
39.8	Granger	200	-5	7.9	3.5	0.1
505.1a	Gr Portland	258	-2	10.7	4.1	25.4
549.0a	Greycoat	401	-1	8.6	1.8	17.4
34.9a	Hallwood Gp	83 ^b				
151.1a	Hester Courtyard	46	+2			
263.3a	Hemmerson	731		+12	26.0	3.8
989.0a	Da "A" (aes)	700	+25	29.0	3.7	22.1
4,617.000	Hawover Cruise	725		+7	8.7	8.9
29.0a	Hawoverper	825	+50	37.5	7.1	5.8
38.7a	Hawover	240		+12	13.5	6.5
18.5a	Herring Box	150			7.7	1.5
6,000.000	Herring	760			1.1	4.9

30.0m	192	8.0	9.3
41.0m	73	+22	8.9 12.2 3.4
30.0m	33	1.3	3.9
1,557.0m	484	-12	20.3 4.0 17.5
12.0m	70
33.0m	145	..	7.5 8.2 16.9
85.0m	54	..	7.3 13.5 5.1
42.0m	30	-6	14.0 4.6 3.6
8,178.000	123	..	2.7 22.5 ..

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22.5m	WAT (m)	680	0+0	40.0	5.7 17.5
22.5m	PJ Carrot	527	0+0	38.4	2.6 12.4
22.5m	Tomatoes " "	681			

TOBACCO

22.5m	WAT (m)	680	0+0	40.0	5.7 17.5
22.5m	PJ Carrot	527	0+0	38.4	2.6 12.4
22.5m	Tomatoes " "	681			

TRANSPORT

22.5m	Agac By Parts	280	0+0	8.3	2.9 12.9
22.5m	Agac By Parts	404	0+1	13.3	3.3 14.4
22.5m	Agac By Parts	404	0+1	13.3	3.3 14.4

20.7%	Digital	687	+4	19.0	37	11.1
20.7%	Electronic Data Systems	100	-1	18.0	1.0	..
21.7%	Eurochem Ltd.	018	..	..	..	..
77.2%	Eurochem Holdings	80	-1	..	..	..
20.2%	Fisher (Japan)	148	..	0.7	49	11.8
20.2%	Fuji	108	..	0.7	28	2.7
18.0%	Jacobs (UK)	73	-1	..	..	..
20.2%	Lap	160	+2	5.8	47	21.0
20.2%	Manderley Ship	230	..	..	..	..
20.2%	Hempy Docks	137	..	..	..	..
20.2%	NPC	330	+10	6.5	27	25.2
11.1%	Ocean Group	651	..	..	..	..
20.2%	P&O	600	+2	17.5	51	12.5
20.2%	P&O Ltd.	600	..	7.8	7.8	2.5
20.2%	P&O S.S.C.	91	..	8.5	0.0	7.5
20.2%	P&O Drydock	312	-4	26.1	..	6.5

[illegible]

WORKING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Pickens renews pressure on Koito

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

WITH a month to go before Koito's annual meeting, the sparring between Mr T Boone Pickens and directors of the Japanese car-parts firm in which he holds 26 per cent but no boardroom seats, is already sizzling, with both sides determined not to give ground.

Koito is rejecting a list of requests submitted by the colourful Texan oilman. These range from a demand for four seats on the board and higher dividends to a change in the company's articles of association.

The June 28 meeting is now likely to be as fiery as last year, when Mr Pickens, who is used to having a say as big as his shareholding, was left fuming after a similar list of demands to the board was rejected.

Mr Pickens argues that Koito's relationship with Toyota — which buys much of Koito's output and which has only 19 per cent of Koito's shares but three seats on its board — is too cosy and is hurting returns for Koito's shareholders.

Koito suspects that behind his demand for more shareholder rights, Mr Pickens is trying to greenmail the company by getting Koito to buy back his shares at a big premium.

Mr Pickens's theatrical campaign for what he calls justice — which has taken on some political overtones at a time when Washington is demanding more openness in trade and other areas from Tokyo — has exposed both the clubbiness of Japanese boardrooms and the inability of outsiders to do much about it.

A tight web of cross-shareholdings makes Japanese companies almost impenetrable to unwanted suitors.

Helicopter exports may stall Westland

REPORTING THIS WEEK

INTERIM profits at Westland Group, due today, could be depressed as the company continues to deliver the Indian Sea King export helicopters at nil margins. Further news is awaited on the new EH101 model.

Mr Sash Tusa, of Flemings Research, is looking for taxable profits of £12 million (£8 million last time) from the Yeovil-based manufacturer where Mr Alan Jones is the chief executive.

TODAY

Interim: North American Gas Investments Trust (third quarter), Svenska Cellulosa, Tunistal, Westland Group.
Finals: Bank of Nova Scotia, Brewmaster, Centaway Trust, City of London PR Group, Ritz Design Group, Rolfe & Nolan Computer Services, Southnews.
Economic statistics: CBI monthly trends inquiry (May), gross domestic product (output-based; first quarter — preliminary), new vehicle registrations (April).

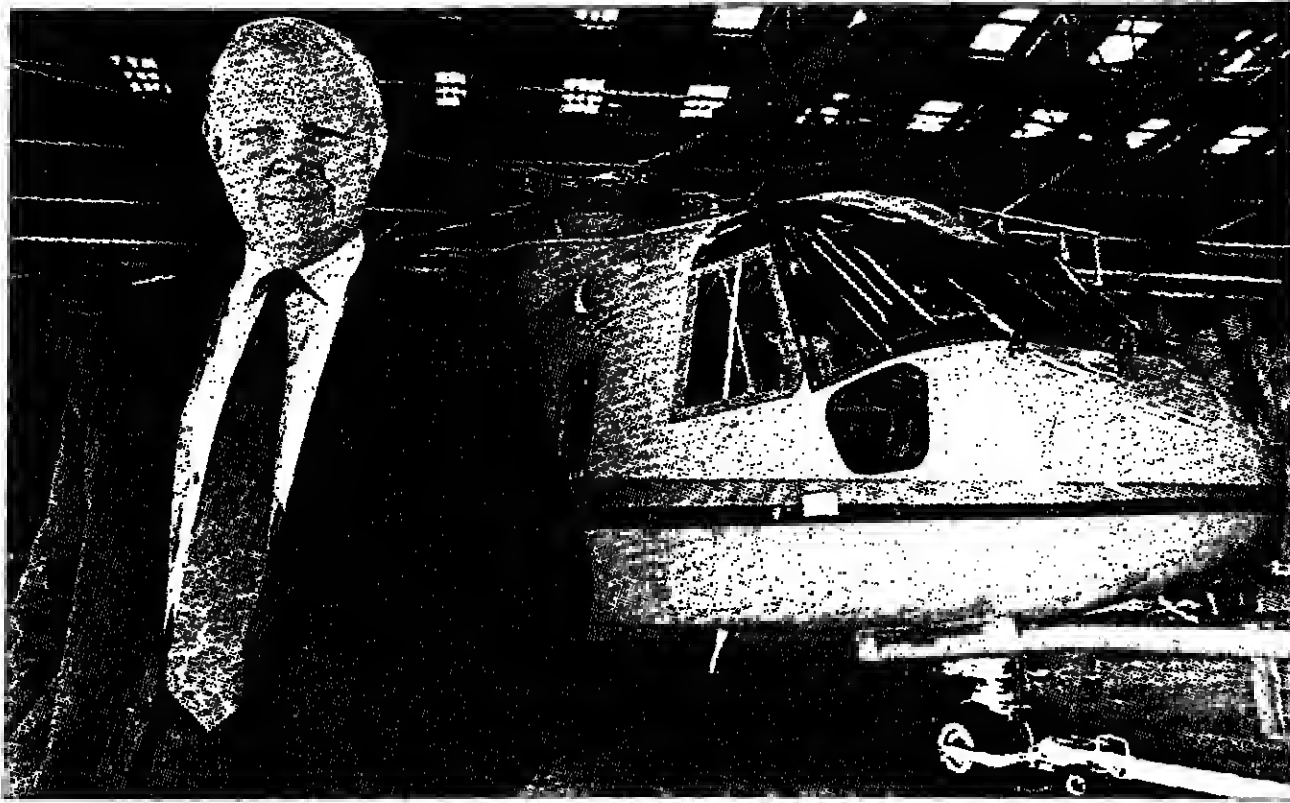
TOMORROW

Dunhill Holdings, the international retailer and luxury goods maker that does more than 90 per cent of its business outside Britain, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £50 million, against £45.5 million, according to Mr Andrew Hughes at Nomura Research.

The group, whose brands include Dunhill lighters, Montblanc pens, and Chloe fashion and fragrances, has not been affected by the downturn in the British retailing sector.

The Pacific Basin accounts for about 47 per cent of sales, with particularly strong interest from Japan — recently causing some concern on fears that Japanese spending may have trailed off a little in the shadow of stock market falls and a weaker yen.

America accounts for about 20 per cent of sales and Europe 22 per cent.



Depressed profits: Alan Jones, chief executive of Westland, where further news is awaited on the EH101 model

Good growth at the interim stage and a strong international presence should help Siebe, the controls, engineering and safety equipment group, to announce final pre-tax profits of £175 million, against £152 million, according to County NatWest WoodMac. Forecasts range from £175 million to £180 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects SG Warburg Group, the merchant bank, to show the benefits of the 1989 bull market and reveal a sharp rise in final pre-tax profits to about £183 million, compared with £111.5 million.

Market forecasts range from £180 million to £193 million. However, this year is expected

to prove a harder operating environment with lower corporate finance activity.

Interim: Casper Oil, Eurocopy, Young (H) Holdings.
Finals: Dunhill Holdings, Hartwell, Physio, Siebe, Spayhawk, Warburg (SG) Group.
Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (April), OECD ministerial meeting in Paris.

THURSDAY

The mild winter will have constrained sales of gas in Britain and limited volume growth at British Gas.

However, of more importance will be the final dividend which Mr Robert Evans, the chairman, will reveal and which should be seasonally adjusted to reflect

underlying growth rather than the weather.

Mr Stephen Turner at Smith New Court expects the final dividend to be raised by 16.8 per cent to 7.3p, making 10.5p for the year, up 16.7 per cent.

Smith New Court is forecasting historic cost net income of £940 million for the year, up from £899 million last time, with market forecasts ranging from £930 million to £970 million.

Earnings per share are expected to remain fairly flat, edging up from 21.1p to 22.1p.

Analysts expect Babcock International, the engineering group, to show final pre-tax profits of between £41 million and £43 million in its first full

year since the demerger from FKL.

Storehouse, the troubled retailing group which includes BHS, Habitat and Mothercare and which is headed by Mr Michael Julien, the chief executive, will report figures that will be littered with exceptional costs, provisions and property profits, although the final figure is likely to be about breakeven.

However, the big question will be whether the group will maintain the dividend, with the majority in the City expecting a cut.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd expects a small pre-tax loss of about £500,000 after £23 million or £24 million of excep-

tional costs relating to the closure of the Habitat and Heals stores and the redundancies at BHS, which had a difficult year with a decline of about 50 per cent in profits.

However, there will be some income from property and the statement on current trading could be relatively cheerful.

Remtal and retailing growth should be steady at Thorn EMI, the music recording-electricals and technology group.

But music, which accounts for more than a quarter of profits, should have been strong, boosted by a full-year contribution from the SBK acquisition.

However, the advance in the music side will be offset by a disappointing performance from lighting, although the group recently announced that it has started negotiations to sell its lighting division.

Nomura Research has pencilled in full-year pre-tax profits of £318 million, compared with £289 million last year. Market forecasts range from £310 million to £320 million.

Interim: Doctus, Sidlaw Group, Sleepy Kids, Stratagem, TSB Bank, Tunistal, United Scientific Holdings.
Finals: Babcock International Group, British Gas, Brown Shipley Holdings, Estates & Agency Holdings, Macdonald Marine Distilleries, Storehouse, Thorn EMI.
Economic statistics: Manufacturers' and distributors' prices (first quarter — provisional), energy trends (March), monetary statistics (including bank and building societies' balance sheets; April).

FRIDAY

Interim: Brooke Tool Engineering (Holdings).
Finals: Henderson Administration Group, TDS Credits, TR Property Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: Capital expenditure and stockbuilding (first quarter — provisional), engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (March).

Philip Pangalos

Step up trade with Saudis, urges CBI

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry is launching an initiative to strengthen trade links with Saudi Arabia and increase British investment there.

Mr John Banham, the CBI's director general, was in Riyadh earlier this year and a high-level Saudi delegation is due in Britain next month. The CBI expects to bring the delegation and senior British executives together to examine the potential for fresh involvement in the Saudi market.

The main forum will be a conference on June 18 in London organized by the CBI in co-operation with the Committee for Middle East Trade

and the Middle East Association. It is sponsored by the Saudi British Bank.

Mr Banham said: "Saudi Arabia is one of the best potential areas for foreign investment. The climate is now right for senior British managers to move Saudi Arabia up the agenda of investment opportunities."

Low cost land and energy, competitively-priced labour and early remittance of capital and profits were among the country's advantages, he said.

British exports to Saudi Arabia were £2.4 billion last year, a doubling since 1985. Saudi sales to the UK, mainly crude oil, amounted to £500 million.

Controls on exports 'will stay'

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

STRATEGIC controls over Western exports of advanced technology to East European countries are likely to remain in place in spite of the liberalization process, says a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The report, by Mr Stuart Macdonald, argues that even more complex safeguards may be needed to prevent exported technology falling into the wrong hands. Many classes of technology supplied to the East European countries will continue to be denied to the Soviet Union.

Mr Macdonald claims that the system of export controls in the US has acquired a life of its own after so many decades. The controls have been used to promote US interests at the expense of non-American Western companies.

The report claims that the damage done to communist countries by the controls has been relatively insignificant. "The irrational communist system did most of the damage itself."

To: The Clerk, The Marketers' Company, 42 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, London N8 7EA. I wish to nominate the following company for a Marketing and the Environment Award:

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Brief description of Campaign

THIS COUPON MUST BE RETURNED BY 30 JUNE 1990

Ireland already a 1992 winner

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PROponents of sterling's early entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS often cite France as evidence that ERM membership provides an anti-inflationary discipline. But another country has achieved an even more notable turnaround, although this has gone relatively unnoticed.

The Republic of Ireland, much maligned until two years ago for bad labour relations and high inflation, is set to achieve an inflation rate of 3 per cent this year, with growth at about 4 per cent. In this respect the Irish economy of 1990 is close in relative performance to those of France and West Germany, and way ahead of Britain's.

In addition, Ireland is set to benefit, perhaps more than most European countries, from the planned internal European market. Economists have pointed out that the countries at the periphery of the European Community will benefit most from the 1992 effect.

One obvious reason is the lower cost of transport — and hence lower export costs — as a result of a relaxation in customs and excise rules. At the moment they are higher for countries further away from the main markets.

But the major factor is a realization that a small country should concentrate on niche markets.

The Irish government agency responsible for industrial policy is the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland. Mr Padraic White, its outgoing managing director and chairman, reflects on the changing attitudes: "The Germans in particular used to be sceptical about Ireland. To them Ireland's labour relations proved unacceptable. Today we are observing a remarkable change in attitude."

Mr White puts this down to the "national deal" between employers and the unions, which included low wage settlements fixed for a number of years.

The Irish strategy, he says, is to concentrate on its single greatest strength, the quality of its graduates. The aim is to attract foreign — electronics, computer and engineering firms and persuade them to set up research headquarters.

The same strategy has been applied to financial services, allowing Dublin to develop into a small but sophisticated offshore financial centre.

The message from Ireland is that 1992 has already arrived — and it is there for everyone to see.

US NOTEBOOK

Markets perk up in response to tighter money

CONDITIONS in the US financial markets have continued to improve since the Federal Reserve Board made plain there would be no more easing of monetary policy.

The rising trend of the Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices has been arrested; gold and oil have fallen, as have short- and long-term interest rates; shares have done well.

Even the announcement that the savings and loan bailout price would be near \$150 billion (before interest compounding) failed to hurt the markets. Nor did the dollar weakness versus the yen do much to rattle them.

The US is a beneficiary of the benign trend of worldwide interest rates that began in April. Since then the US long bond has fallen 35 basis points in yield; British gilts have fallen nearly a full point in yield; the Japanese 10-year No 119 bond has fallen more than 50 basis points in yield; and 12-month Libor has fallen nearly 70 basis points.

Conditions are evolving in such a positive fashion that one must exercise self-discipline over nascent optimism.

Another positive trend has been the drop in the growth rate of US money M2. This monetary aggregate — unlike the broader measures, M3, M4 or debt — was very badly behaved in the second half of last year. It showed excessive growth, much of it due to the huge swap of money into money market mutual funds last year as Americans struggled to increase holdings of cash in what seemed a very unfriendly environment. There has been no M2 growth for more than two months — a very positive development.

Between December and the month of May to date, the growth rate of M2 has fallen to less than 4 per cent this year.

This is very good news, reflecting more moderate growth in the monetary base, as the growth of US foreign exchange reserves ceases, and the switch of money out of money market mutual funds into financial assets.

These constructive developments also indicate a lessening of the availability of cash from the Fed itself and a growing public acceptance of the need to move out of cash into assets with better yield prospects.

After revisions, the average growth rate of real GNP in the latest two quarters — fourth quarter 1989 and first quarter 1990 — was 1.2 per cent a year. This was the lowest such rate since the last three quarters of 1986, which after substantial revisions now show an average growth rate of real GNP of only 0.6 per cent a year.

The first quarter 1990 numbers may have been distorted upwards by weather. The employment figures for March and April told us that much. And from what we know about the April and May figures, they are coming in very weak. So maybe there will be zero growth in real GNP during this quarter. The markets appear to be saying that something of the sort is happening.

The comparison with 1986 raises the question of the long bond yield, which for most of that year was about 7½ per cent. Today it is 8.64 per cent.

Meanwhile US personal savings continue to run at about \$220 billion-\$230 billion a year, which is more than twice the 1987 rate and sufficient to finance the US federal budget deficit out of domestic personal savings. Americans can save more because they are not buying houses or cars, two industries suffering from a huge sales slump.

Maxwell Newton
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despite
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Unemployment has been rising as business comes under pressure, but the county's industrial base is widening. Local leaders believe the difficulties can be overcome

JOHN BATES

Flying on despite the turbulence

News items on the job front this month came as a nasty shock to Bedfordshire, a county which has successfully widened its industrial base to ride out recession. First Storehouse, the retail group which owns Habitat and Mothercare, announced 900 layoffs among its BHS staff, of whom 300 would be from London, Luton and Stevenage. The next day Britannia Airways, Luton-based and part of the International Thomson Group, said there would be job losses of 250.

Only a day later, Whitbread, the brewer, another of the county's large employers, was contemplating the loss of up to 1,000 jobs nationwide in the wake of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on pubs and breweries. Such blows were more commonplace 10 years ago, especially in the south of the county, which is heavily dependent on the recession-prone car industry. However, Bedfordshire, whose location gives access to London, Heathrow airport, the Midlands and the east-coast ports and which has its own airport at Luton, has been transformed.

Unemployment in the county is 3.2 per cent. The main bright spot is mid-Bedfordshire, where the figure is 1.5 per cent and some wards have as little as 0.6 per cent unemployment. South Bedfordshire has a rate of 2.2 per cent. In the north, some blackspots in Bedford pushed the rate up to 3.5 per cent, and Luton is still at the top of the county's range with 4.9 per cent registered out of work.

Bob Gurney, Bedfordshire's principal economic development officer, says that in some Luton

wards the figure is as high as 10 per cent. Even so, Luton and Bedford provide the main employment centres, and Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable offer further opportunities. The county is an established base for organizations in engineering, technology, food, distribution and research and development.

Large manufacturers include Texas Instruments, Hunting Engineering, Tobler Suchard and National Freight Company, as well as Whitbread.

The service sector has emerged as a significant source of employment. Although jobs in engineering, metals and the motor industry have dropped from more than 60,000 to fewer than 40,000 during the past 15 years, services outside catering and finance have increased from 9,000 to 60,000. Mineral extraction and agriculture are other important activities. The straw and fashion bat industry, on which Luton's fortunes were founded in the 19th century, remains a flourishing feature and contributes to the town's export trade.

Bedfordshire has a varied selection of land and buildings accommodating local business growth and multinational corporations. Locations vary from prime town-centre sites to established or newly built industrial estates and business parks.

Although the county provides about 207,000 jobs, compared with 194,000 in 1974, any loss of employment is naturally unwelcome.

Sir Terence Conran, who welded the constituent parts of Storehouse into one group as chairman, had a reputation for



High-flyer: Britannia Airways, based at Luton, expanded to run package-holiday flights to Australia but shocked the county when it announced 250 staff lay-offs

taking a paternalistic attitude towards staff. Within two weeks of his departure, David Dworkin, chief executive since last November, had slashed 900 jobs in middle management.

Fortunately, Bedfordshire will escape the worst of the BHS job losses. The company spent 15 weeks examining its organization, deciding where it could streamline. As a result, 80 of the 200 staff at Luton, where the payroll department is based, will go.

BHS is also cutting out an average of five managers per store,

although a precise figure for the two stores at Luton and Bedford has not yet been fixed.

The writing was also on the wall for the 250 job losses at Britannia Airways, based at Luton airport. The takeover of Orion Airways was always likely to result in some rationalization of staff, especially at a time of cuts in package holidays on offer.

However, Britannia is keen to stress the positive side of its announcement. Alan Hyde, the public relations officer, says: "It is not a direct result of the downturn

in charter holidays. It is part of a wider strategy, not just a knee-jerk reaction to recent market trends."

He says the job cuts came after a six-month review of operations that would leave the airline fit and competitive for the 1990s. Britannia is showing its confidence by ordering new aircraft.

Most of the employees leaving are operational staff, including engineers, pilots and cabin crew. Britannia has a work-force of 3,500, of whom 1,900 are at Luton. The company hopes many will go through voluntary redun-

dancy and early retirement, but the extent of the cuts at Luton itself is not yet clear.

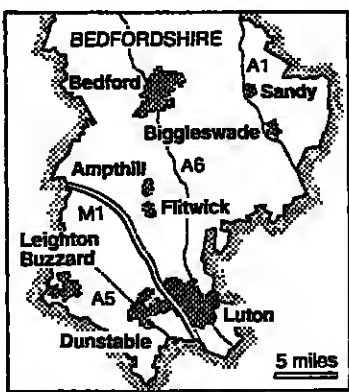
Whitbread's employment reorganization will be spread over the next 18 months and will be alleviated by early and normal retirement. Already some departing staff have not been replaced.

A spokesman says few jobs in Bedfordshire will go and will be more than offset by being moved to new premises at Capability Green, the new business park in the grounds of the stately home, Luton Hoo.

Mr Gurney says: "We do not yet know the full impact of the job losses but we are in touch with the companies to see if we can help. We do have a redundancy service as a result of lay-offs at London Brick nine months ago."

"Because of our position between Milton Keynes and Cambridge, things have been buoyant and we had to expect some levelling off."

"We are trying to work with local businesses as a partnership. We are not leaving them to their own devices; we help them."



More take-offs for a better-quality service

Luton airport has long had an image as a major centre for package holiday flights, but this is changing. About a third of the 35,000 flights every year are scheduled rather than charter services, and it is the scheduled side that is likely to grow. Freight is also increasing - last year 30,000 tons were handled - a 60 per cent increase on 1988.

The airport, owned by Luton Borough Council, handles 3 million passengers a year and provides employment for 4,500 people. However, future development is clouded. Dr David Bates, the airport director, says: "The council has decided in principle to sell the controlling interest but details cannot be settled until the Civil Aviation

Authority reports in July on airport capacity in the South-east."

The delay is unfortunate because a government White Paper has accepted the principle of 5 million passengers a year for Luton. A report presented to the council at the end of last year suggested the airport could handle 10 million passengers by 2005.

Some illustrious names have expressed interest in investing in Luton airport. They include Richard Branson and Peter de Savary, and companies such as Wimpey, Brent Walker and Lockheed.

The airport is home to two leading operators, Britannia - which is part of the Thompson International group and respon-

sible for about one third of the airport's flights - and to Monarch.

Britannia has been there since 1962, and despite the vast improvements to the airport since then, it would like to see further expansion.

The company opened a £5 million hangar in April, double the size of its existing facilities, but voiced fears that Luton could become London's forgotten airport with political attention focused on Stansted.

Alan Hyde, the public relations officer for Britannia, says: "In our view, Luton can increase the number of passengers without having any significant development. It is restricted to 16 movements an hour and that could be increased quite easily. The airport's potential could be realized

if the consortium taking it over under privatization invests in it."

Britannia has built up its fleet from the original three Lockheed Constellations in 1962 to 43 Boeings. In 1987 it decided to spend \$1 billion on eight extended-range 767s and two have been delivered.

The ability to fly longer distances has been crucial to Britannia's growth and has helped the airline offset the downturn this year in many package holiday destinations.

Britannia offers a package deal to Australia and New Zealand with return flight and two weeks' accommodation at £699. Flights are also available to Orlando, Florida.

Mr Hyde says: "The charter holiday market has taken a dip,

mainly as a result of lower consumer spending. Tour operators across the board have cut back on their programmes and are concentrating on quality holidays rather than quantity."

"They are offering fewer places but those places will be taken up. We have changed our flight programme accordingly and expect to carry as many passengers this year as last."

"Long-haul flights are still very popular. There is an increasing tendency for tourists to book seats only. There is more independence and more flexibility."

Britannia has one scheduled service from Luton - a £29 one-way fare to Belfast. Thirty per cent of passengers are business executives.

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FOCUS

The Cavalier proved to be a resounding success story and its maker intends to keep up the good work

The launch of the Cavalier has proved to be one of the great success stories of British motoring. The question now is whether Vauxhall Motors can produce another winner — or even two. The Calibra, two-door, four-seater sports coupé, is to be launched next month and the Lotus Carlton, another high-performance car, in the autumn.

Paul Tosh, the chairman and managing director, has no doubts. He says: "These two new models will add to the exciting and successful range we currently have in the market-place. I am convinced that Vauxhall has one of the best product ranges of any of the volume car manufacturers in Europe."

The achievement of the Cavalier gives him good cause for optimism. Sales reached 130,000 last year and Vauxhall claims it was Britain's top-selling model in the first quarter of this year.

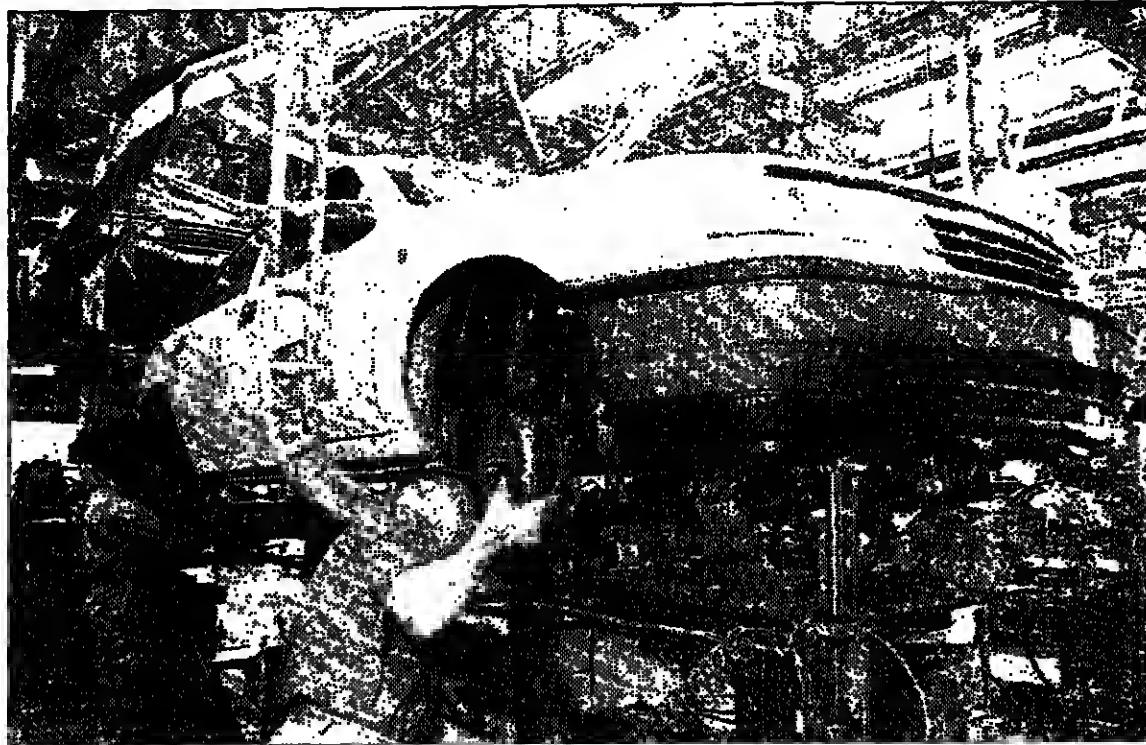
By investing in better working facilities at the Luton Cavalier plant, and removing bottlenecks, Vauxhall was able to raise production during 1989 from 32 cars an hour to 40.

Mr Tosh says: "We are on target to achieve a production rate of 45 an hour this year, which will give us the opportunity to begin to export a substantial number of passenger cars for the first time in many years."

This performance allowed Vauxhall to announce in April that pre-tax profits had increased by 55 per cent to £236.3 million in 1989, the third consecutive year of record profits. Employees were paid a £7.6 million share of the profits. Turnover, too, was a record, at £2,533 million.

Vauxhall completed a three-year £122 million investment programme in 1988, just in time to catch the start of the economic downturn. In a tight, competitive

Vauxhall puts Luton in the driving seat



Getting it together: the Vauxhall Cavalier body shell is united with its main mechanical components

market, it has proved to be a shrewd move. Vauxhall has taken its share of the car market to 15.2 per cent last year from 13.7 per cent a year earlier.

Mr Tosh says: "High interest rates and inflation mean that the market in Britain will decline in

1990 by some 8.5 per cent to 2.1 million units. Despite this, we believe that Vauxhall will further increase its market share in 1990 to about 17 per cent, a conviction supported by our performance in the first three months."

Although Vauxhall has hit by an

industrial dispute over pay at the end of last year, the old motor-industry image of poor investment and wildcat strikes has disappeared during the past 10 years.

A spokeswoman says: "People do not just walk off their jobs. Everyone is very much aware of the



Without doubts: Paul Tosh

competitive pressures and there is a willingness to work together. This is showing through in customer satisfaction and in the quality of the products."

Mr Tosh says: "We switched the sourcing of £26.5 million worth of material purchases from the Continent to the UK last year, which helped to contain our material costs. During the past three years General Motors' European operations, including Vauxhall, has increased its UK sourcing by a staggering £478 million."

There is, however, no room for complacency. As Mr Tosh says: "Just as the United States was the battleground for car manufacturers in the 1980s, so Europe will be in the 1990s. We are forecasting over-capacity in the European industry by the middle of the decade, with Japanese manufacturers a prime competitive source."

Why the parks prove popular

Bedfordshire has been one of the most determined and successful counties in setting up business parks and attracting new industry and services, even though the county cannot offer such incentives as a development zone.

A main reason for the success is that real efforts have been made to ensure that the business parks are pleasant places in which to work. A prime example is Capability Greco in the grounds of the stately home, Luton Hoo.

This park was designed to accommodate the needs of modern technology and office-based users.

It is 30 miles north of central London and has easy access to the M1. The M25 can be reached in 10 minutes and Heathrow Airport is a 30-minute drive away.

Buildings cover less than 15 per cent of the site and 30 per cent of the area is landscaped. The development has attracted three international organizations: Amritsu, of Japan, Nacanco, of the United States, and Barclays Bank, which is establishing a regional office there.

Andrew Johnson, at the Bedford office of Connell Wilson, the estate agents, says the price of units, even more than the excellent location, makes Bedfordshire popular.

He says: "The county is on a par with Milton Keynes in terms of distance from London but in, for example, the Amphil Business Park the units are let for £6.50 or even £6.25 a sq ft. In Milton Keynes it would be at least another £1 or £1.50."

Amphil was completed at the end of last year. It has 12 units totalling more than 50,000 sq ft, centred on a landscaped parking area. Three units have been let and another three or four should be let next month.

Mr Johnson is also responsible for lettings at Broadmead Business Park at Stewarby, where the developer is Christie Bradford, a Bedford-based family business responsible for several local industrial and office schemes.

Only four units remain vacant out of 21 at Broadmead, where the rural setting

is a particular attraction. The first phase was completed in August 1989 and the second phase in October, bringing total space up to 53,000 sq ft.

Michael Thompson, at Connell Wilson's Luton office, has five business parks in his area. Two, Portenway and Titan Court, have recently been completed. He agrees that price is the big attraction but, being in the south of the county, finds more inquiries are based on location as well.

He says: "There is a good electric railway line and two motorway junctions near by. You are close enough to London to get into town if you want to but far enough away to get the benefits of cheap housing."

Light industry is increasing its profile in the Luton area. Many companies are new to the town — three of the five units occupied at Bramingham went to outsiders, and at the Airport Executive Park, where only three units are left, six of the 10 occupants are newcomers.

Chiltern Park, a well landscaped 13-acre estate at Dunstable, has attracted Storehouse, the retail chain that includes BHS and Mothercare. Of the 268,000 sq ft on offer, two large units await letting.

The Bedford parks have attracted a mix of light processing and service industries, including direct mailing and computer services. Mr Johnson says: "At Amphil there has been more interest from computer-based firms than at any other park that I have been involved in."

Local traders have shown a healthy interest in the parks and negotiations to lure two foreign companies are at a delicate stage. "There seems to be a reasonable pool of labour to pick from. It has never been an obvious problem for the companies I have spoken to," he says.

The borough and district councils all produce regular updated registers of the land and premises available in their areas. The county council's planning department also produces a booklet detailing the number of units on every estate, their size and a monitor of vacancy rates.



Home of light industry: Airport Executive Park, Luton

Country strongholds for the Conservatives



Parliamentary monopoly for the Conservatives in the Bedfordshire seats (from left): Sir Trevor Skeet, David Madel, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, John Carlisle and Graham Bright

Conservatives find the rural areas of Bedfordshire make the county particularly fertile territory for the party. Both members of the European Parliament are Conservative.

In Bedfordshire South Peter Beazley had a nasty surprise at the last election, clinging on by 2,977 votes — he had been elected by a majority of almost 15,000 in 1984.

In Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire North, there was a more comfortable ride for Sir Fred Catherwood, whose majority was 32,321. He had 47,216 votes to spare in 1984.

The Conservatives also have all five British parliamentary seats: John Carlisle in Luton North (with a majority of 15,573), Graham Bright

in Luton South (5,115), Sir Nicholas Lyell in Bedfordshire Mid (22,851), Sir Trevor Skeet in Bedfordshire North (16,505) and David Madel in Bedfordshire South West (22,305).

Against the national trend, there was a swing to the Conservatives in all five seats in the 1987 general election, when the Alliance held on to second place in the three shire seats.

Local politics offer little comfort to Labour, either, although the party did manage to gain four seats in this month's council elections.

In North Bedfordshire, where no party has control, 18 of the 53 seats were up for election and Labour managed two gains, one from the

Conservatives and one from the Liberal Democrats. Labour was encouraged by the eight seats it took, compared with five each for the other two main contenders.



Euro MPs: Peter Beazley (left) and Sir Fred Catherwood

but that still left the Conservatives as the largest party on the council with 24 seats against 15 held by Labour and 13 by the Liberal Democrats. There is one independent.



In heavily Conservative South Bedfordshire, Labour again took one seat from each of the other two, but one was the traditionally safe Labour seat of Houghton East, which was lost in a by-election last September when only 17 per cent of the electorate voted.

The picture was confused by the fact that the Liberal Democrats took two Conservative seats but lost one back to the Conservatives.

The Conservatives still managed to return most councillors, nine against five for Labour and two for the Liberal Democrats and one independent.

Despite the net loss of two seats, the Conservatives still have 37 of the 53 councillors. Labour has nine, the Liberal

Democrats five and independents two.

Luton borough, where the entire council is elected together, is also dominated by the right. The Conservatives hold 32 seats, there are 13 Labour councillors and three Liberal Democrats.

The balance is the same in Bedfordshire Mid, where there are 41 Conservatives, three Liberal Democrats, three Labour members, two independents and four others.

Perhaps surprisingly, the county council is hung. The Conservatives, with 35 seats, are still the biggest party, but Labour with 27 and the Liberal Democrats with 11 deprive them of overall control.

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CLOSE-UP ON THE COUNTY

Population 530,700
Area 123,461 hectares
Parliamentary constituencies: Luton South, Bedfordshire Mid, Bedfordshire North, Luton North, Bedfordshire South West.
European constituencies: Bedfordshire South, Cambridge and Bedfordshire North.

Local government: Bedfordshire County Council (no overall control), Conservative 35, Labour 27, Liberal Democrats 11.
North Bedfordshire (no overall control), Con 24, Lab 15, Lib Dem 2, SDP 1, Residents 1.
South Bedfordshire (Con), Con 37, Lab 9, Lib Dem 5, Ind 1.
Luton Borough (Con) Con 32, Lab 13, Lib Dem 3.
Mid Bedfordshire (Con), Con 41, Lab 3, Lib Dem 3, Ind 3, Owner-Occupiers 4.

Rail links: Electrified InterCity Euston
InterCity 125 St Pancras-Sheffield
Thameslink Bedford-Gatwick-Brighton
Electrified Bedford-Luton-St Pancras-Moorgate
Electrified Leighton Linasde-Euston
Electrified Sandy-Biggleswade-King's Cross

Addresses: Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AJ (0234 63222); North Bedfordshire Borough Council, Town Hall, Bedford MK40 1SJ (0234 67422); Mid Bedfordshire District Council, 12 Dunstable Street, Amphil, Bedford MK45 2JU (0525 40205); Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ (0582 31291); South Bedfordshire District Council, District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1LF (0582 472222); Bedfordshire Tourism Marketing Initiative, Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford MK40 1PG (0234 268840).

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Airships and floating fortunes

This imaginative venture has survived the ups and downs of business, but it now looks set to gain a firm commercial anchor

Airship Industries, one of Britain's most imaginative business ventures, has had its ups and downs. Paul Davie, the head of corporate communications, says it is now "hovering on the brink of something great".

Roger Monk, the technical director, founded the business in 1980 to design, build and fly helium-filled airships. It was the revival of a dream that began in the First World War and looked like ending just before the Second World War with two spectacular crashes, the R101 and the Hindenburg.

The company was floated on the unlisted securities market in 1983. Within months it was short of cash and suspended. Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, stepped in to underwrite a rights issue. An order from the United States' Navy in 1987 looked likely to put Airship Industries on its feet but the Bond empire ran into cash-flow difficulties and spending was drastically cut to keep the company alive.

Mr Davie is confident, saying: "Our perspective is that Airship Industries was started 10 years ago as a research and development company. Mr Bond bought into it when we were still at the R & D stage, recognizing that it would need feeding with money but knowing,

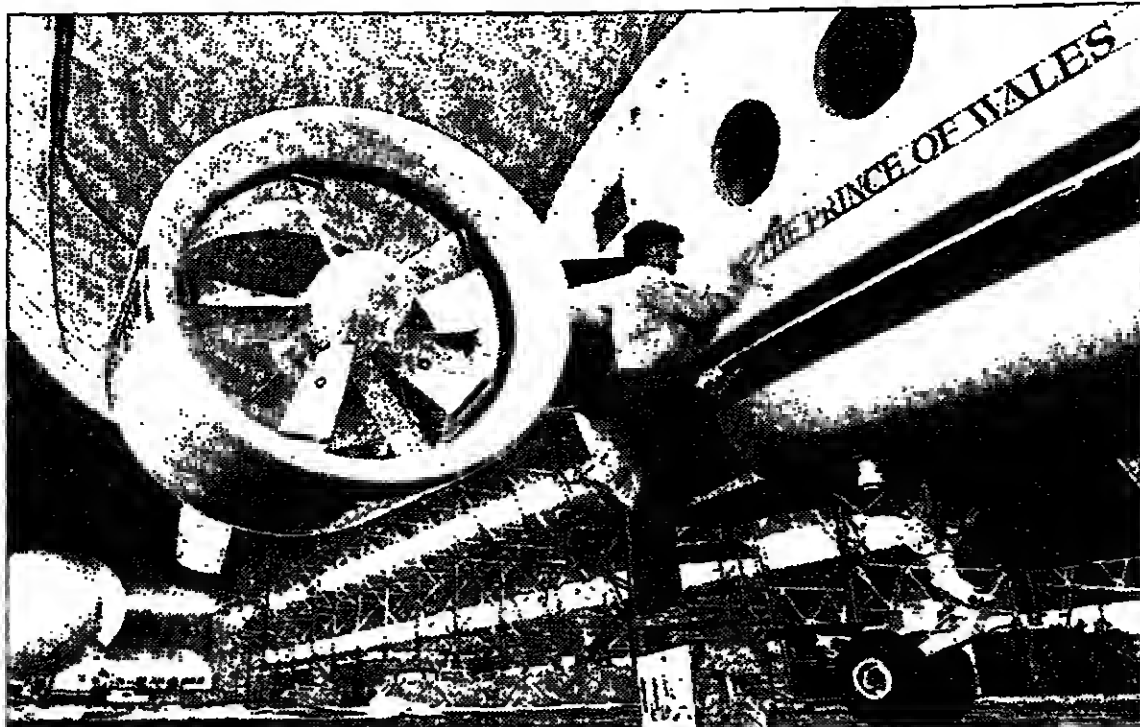
that in time it would be self-sufficient. We are now going through the transition to paying our way."

"Revenue rose two years ago and the sales curve is up. We are very close but not quite there yet. We have had to reduce activities and alter our time scales to reduce the demand for support from Mr Bond. Since Christmas we have been self-supporting."

Cash from the £66 million sale of land at Cardington aerodrome, the base for Airship Industries, has helped. So, too, has the renegotiation of payment terms on the \$170 million (about £100 million) US Navy contract to build a prototype surveillance airship.

The fixed-price contract provided for payments over four years, with progress payments running at 75 per cent of the work value. Airship Industries was carrying a quarter of the development costs and, by the end of last year, the deficit had mounted to \$10 million - a heavy burden for a company with an annual turnover of between £20 million and £25 million.

Mr Davie says: "Congress recognized that burden and the fact that a research and development project of the type we are doing is pretty elaborate and involves a lot of risks."



Up, up and away: each sale of an airship puts the company on firmer footing, but it still awaits a fleet order

The US is now funding 90 per cent of the progress payments, backdated to 1987, thus immediately releasing \$6 million.

Airship Industries has 230 staff world-wide, including 150 in Britain. The company has built 15 ships and sold eight, operating the other seven itself. Airships have gained a high profile as an advertis-

ing medium but surveillance work also offers scope. During the French bicentenary celebrations last year, one airship spent 132 hours above Paris at a cost of only £110 an hour, something that would not have been practicable with conventional aircraft.

Mr Davie says: "An airship can be there all the time making

surveillance as cheap as possible and as comfortable as possible."

Each sale of an airship puts the company on safer ground because management and maintenance contracts are likely to follow. Mr Davie says: "The US Navy contract is a good one but we are looking for our first fleet sale. Mr Bond has declared his support."

Business takes an optimistic look ahead

A quiet but firm path to tread

Bedfordshire industrialists are cautiously optimistic about the Nineties, although interest rates and inflation now stand higher than companies expected at the start of the year. Research by KPMG, Peat Marwick McLintock, the chartered accountants, shows that recruitment is not considered a great problem.

A survey of businesses in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire at the end of last year indicated that although businesses were concerned about the general economic gloom, they expected investment plans and growth in turnover to be unaffected.

George McNaught, of KPMG, says: "Attitudes have changed but the area is not affected as badly as the rest of the South-east. There have been one or two receiverships but not many. Business is holding up well in general, although companies may not be as bullish as they were in the autumn."

He cites two KPMG clients in Bedfordshire, one doing better than it had forecast at the end of last year and another that suffered a downturn last year but is now quite optimistic. More than three-fifths of Bedfordshire com-

panies surveyed expected their number of employees to grow this year and about half the companies were reckoning on a double-figure growth in turnover.

"Pundits are warning of the dangers of talking the economy into recession but local businesses are taking an appropriately positive view," Mr McNaught says.

Only a fifth of the companies in the KPMG survey thought the economic slowdown would force them to cut investment. There was also good news on the job front, with only one quarter of Bedfordshire businesses reporting shortages, compared with two-thirds in 1988. They also reported no problems in recruiting managers, marketing staff, administrative staff and secretaries. The county seems to be better placed than neighbouring Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, where half the companies surveyed identified skill shortages.

One effect of higher interest rates has been a marked shift of opinion favouring Britain joining the European Monetary System. However, two-thirds of the companies have failed to change their business plans as a result of the post-1992 single European market.

Cranfield embraces the world

Having received the Royal Charter in 1969, the Cranfield Institute of Technology comes of age this year. It is an independent, self-governing institute dedicated to advancing and applying learning in the sciences, engineering, technology and management and promoting and encouraging the application of knowledge and learning to the organization of industry and the public service.

As the world has shrunk through the rapid advance of communications, Cranfield has become a major international university, running degree programmes in the Far East, offering degrees in conjunction with universities in six European Community countries.

Professor Frank Hartley, the vice-chancellor, says: "The essence of Cranfield has always been its commitment to serve the practical needs of industry. Many of the course projects are sponsored by industry for students to apply individual bits of technical knowledge to the solution of real problems. Because industry is in many cases paying, projects are undertaken against the same penalties of time and money that apply in industry."

Links with industry are bringing some interesting developments. A donation by Elf UK, the oil company, will support the construction and equipping of a sub-sea engineering laboratory with special facilities for studying underwater communication as well as other aspects of engineering beneath the sea.

A British Aerospace centre will enable BAE staff to work with Cranfield staff to ensure that the manufacturing engineering programme is academically and technically sound.

The BAE centre will be built on the experience Cranfield has gained at Shrivenham, near Swindon, where the Royal Military College of Science is run jointly with the Army and the Royal Air Force, Cranfield providing the academic part of the programme and the services ensuring that it meets their students' needs.

Professor Hartley says: "We expect to build increasingly on this experience with other companies and perhaps other government departments as well."

Cranfield budgeted to spend £21.7 million on research work this year, one of the largest research efforts among British universities. The actual figure may exceed £23 million. However, Professor Hartley is quick to stress the quality of the work rather than the cost.

Among the items he finds exciting are developing machines that measure to a thickness of five atoms; measuring chemicals in the body with an instrument that looks like a fountain pen that gives a reading of, for example, blood sugar levels in seconds, investigating the combustion process in gas turbine engines and measuring the flow of mixtures of three components.

THE Reverend Derek Upcott ministers to companies rather than a congregation. It is nine years since he turned up in Bedfordshire and offered to found one of the country's first enterprise agencies, although as an Anglican minister, he is still attached to a church in Chesham, Buckinghamshire. He was working in London and did not see eye to eye with the company where he was corporate development director.

Bedfordshire's Enterprise Agency, with Mr Upcott as chief executive, still has a pioneering spirit. Its latest venture is to lead negotiations with Vauxhall Motors to take over a factory.

The Luton vehicle-maker is investing £50 million to build a headquarters and administrative block and is selling some existing buildings and land that will be surplus to requirements to help pay part of the cost.

The agency wants to set up a business centre in conjunction with

Helping hand of the vicar of enterprise

Derek Upcott finds his vocation takes him into the community to help business

the county council and Luton Borough Council setting up an economic unit alongside. About 120,000 sq ft could be split into units to be let to small businesses.

Mr Upcott says: "It would be a major force for business growth and development in the county, providing business opportunities, information and quality advice under one roof. It would house people with knowledge and wide contacts in Bedfordshire."

The enterprise agency has grown so that it now spends about

£140,000 annually. About half comes from 43 sponsors including Vauxhall, Whitbread, Electrolux, SKF, Lancer Boss and Laporte. At the moment, advisers are on secondment from British Rail, Unilever and RHM. The agency's work is often carried out by retired senior executives who offer free counselling. The agency helps about 100 businesses to start each year and a similar number of existing enterprises to develop.

A consultancy arm, also calling on retired executives, offers low-

cost counselling for businesses that need longer-term guidance. Mr Upcott says: "We are trying to regenerate industrial activity, particularly at the southern end of the county, so that local industry can source more of its needs within the area."

A rural division is affiliated to the agency. It has developed four rural business clubs, which Mr Upcott says are going strongly in the north and middle of the county. The prime mover is a retired chairman of the brewer Bass Charington. The rural clubs provide 7,000 sq ft of space for small businesses.

A wide cross-section of businesses and services is helped. Three to four years ago, a quarter of the start-ups were in the retail sector. The computer field was also busy. Mr Upcott says: "Though retailing has fallen away, we get a lot of people from ethnic minorities coming to us, and most of them are on the retailing side."

A sporting chance

THE north-south divide for sports enthusiasts in Bedfordshire means football versus rugby union. In the south, Luton Town offers first division football while, in the north, Bedford is rugby country - although the team had a dismal season and was relegated to second division.

Luton Town is no stranger to the headlines. The side moved up from the third division to the first division, where five years in the top grade saw the FA Cup extremes of an ignominious defeat at Stockport County and a Cup final appearance against Nottingham Forest.

The side sank to the fourth division before making the climb back to the first. Holding on to the top flight has not

been easy. For the past two seasons, the club has escaped relegation after appearing doomed.

Luton has had its share of controversy. The team's plastic pitch is widely criticized. So is the ban on away supporters. However, the membership scheme that keeps visiting hooligans out is at least understood and respected. Luton has made the terraces at the ground safe and restored football as family entertainment.

A £3 million takeover of the club announced last week may result in important changes at Kenilworth Road. Plans to build a 25,000 all-seater stadium on the outskirts of the town are said to be part of the deal.



Tourist attractions: European brown bear Heather and cub face their public

County's tourism thrives

FROM baby bears to stately homes, from gardens to vintage aircraft, Bedfordshire is an underestimated county when it comes to tourism. The area comes under the Thames and Chiltern Tourist Board but in September the Bedfordshire Tourism Marketing Initiative was launched with its own officer, Jane Simpson.

The initiative is part-funded by the five local authorities in the county and partly by the area tourist board.

Miss Simpson says: "We have gardens, countryside walks, farms where you can touch the animals and stately homes. There are half a dozen country parks. We offer countryside close enough to London for people not to spend hours travelling."

Some attractions sell themselves. One is the baby bear born in April at Whip-

snade, the conservation and breeding arm of London Zoo. Another is the river festival held every two years on the Ouse at Bedford. The rafta, races and floats attract 100,000 spectators and the 1990 event was held last weekend.

Bedfordshire has a sense of history, including quaint local customs. On Shrove Tuesday, children at Toddington climb Conger Hill and tie with their ears to the ground to listen for the witch frying her pancakes as the clock strikes noon. In Leighton Buzzard, on Rogation Sunday, the tradition of beating the bounds includes a choirboy standing on his head outside the almshouses. Pavenham also has its curiosity - the rush ceremony on June 29. The floor of the church is strewn with rushes, recalling the annual renewal of rush floor coverings in the district.

'Vulture' with a lively image

Leighton Buzzard seems an unlikely setting for an industrial revolution. One resident describes it as a small, quaint town with a main street, two pubs and a hotel. A market is held twice a week. Yet this was where Alex, the American computer company whose newspaper production system revolutionized Fleet Street, chose to make its British headquarters.

Alex came to Leighton Buzzard by accident 10 years ago next month. Its staff are delighted with the choice, an attitude shared by other town employers.

Robert Pegg, the Alex sales director, says: "I recruited three people. One of us lived in Reading, two in Hertfordshire and one north of Bedford. None of us minded where we set up within a 25 to 30-mile radius to the north of London. We gave our engineer a week off to tour around and see what he could find."

"He came up with four possibilities: St Albans, Stevenage, Watford and Leighton Buzzard. The four of us got in a car on the Friday and went around and looked at all of them. Leighton Buzzard won hands down."

Alex found a modern building with the ground floor empty. It had a computer suite built in by the previous occupant with false floors for cables and air conditioning. Mr Pegg was able to employ qualified administrative staff living in the area and staffing levels rose to 15. He says: "We found people were fed up with commuting into London. They preferred to take less in pay and cut out the travelling. We are here by accident but having arrived here we are

The revolution of Fleet Street began in this unlikely rural setting 10 years ago



All abuzz: Leighton Buzzard High Street and market

very happy with it. It is convenient for all our customers. We needed somewhere north of London that northern clients could reach. For Londoners, there is a good train service from Euston."

The one doubt was the shortage of hotel accommodation. However, Alex was able to use hotels in Dunstable, Luton and Milton Keynes to supplement the one in Leighton

but it meant there was room to expand as other floors became vacant. The staff has reached 60.

He says: "We have not needed to change location even though we have expanded. We came before the Fleet Street revolution and we knew we would expand. Car parking was not an issue. We have ample space."

The Leighton Buzzard set-up is part of a European organization including 50 people in West Germany, 30 in The Netherlands and 20 in France. European staff come to Bedfordshire for training courses and meetings of managerial and technical staff. Lancer Boss, the biggest fork-lift truck maker in the country, is planning to expand its Leighton Buzzard operation and looks for improvements in distribution from the proposed east-west bypass ending traffic congestion in the town. David Phillips, of Lancer, says: "It will give better access to east-coast ports and the south coast. Lancer is a big exporter."

Leighton Buzzard offers the benefits of being within the vehicle manufacturing belt with skilled labour to draw on. Heathrow is only an hour away and East Midlands and Birmingham airports are also close. There is good access to the Midlands and the North with nearby motorways.

Mr Phillips says Lancer has built up its business over 30 years. Leighton Buzzard offers it an attractive manufacturing environment. International connections are important as Lancer manufactures petrol and diesel vehicles in Britain, electric vehicles in West Germany and pedestrian-controlled vehicles in Spain.

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THE LAW

The eastern opportunity

Edward Fennell looks at openings for British law firms in Europe's emerging democracies

The decision last week to site the new European Bank for reconstruction and development in London may help to boost the morale of the City, but will it stimulate interest in developments in eastern Europe?

According to Michael Carl, head of the Anglo-German group at Freres Cholmeley, the British are missing out on a major opportunity as the former Iron Curtain countries seek overseas investment and joint venture deals.

"I am very disappointed by the attitude of the City towards the reconstruction of the East," Mr Carl says. "It is very negative at a time when the West Germans and the Japanese are coming to the East in large numbers."

Mr Carl was speaking at Freres Cholmeley's new East Berlin offices, which opened last week in the plush international trade centre just over the wall from Checkpoint Charlie. As the first western law firm to get a licence to practise in the GDR, Freres feels that it has gained a head start on other London law firms.

Baker & McKenzie also has a presence in the East, but Freres has distinguished itself by recruiting four leading East German lawyers to spearhead its new development.

"The move is very shrewd indeed," Rainer Esser, of the Munich-based European Law Press, says. With currency union on the horizon, West Germany is pouring vast amounts of money and people into the GDR. However, there is a detectable resentment growing among some parts of the East German managerial and professional classes towards what they feel is an insensitive takeover.

Rather than becoming absorbed into an ebullient federal republic, they would prefer to become part of a wider western community. As a result, they are giving a warmer welcome to developments with strong international credentials.

In the past two months, for example, the accounting firm Arthur Andersen has successfully opened offices in five East German cities — having recruited, like Freres, East German nationals. "Foreign firms are regarded as being more independent than West German ones and that is why we are liked better," a spokesman for Andersen says.

The future of Berlin remains unclear. Following reunification, the pressures will mount for it to be reinstated as the political capital, but there is no consensus as to



The new recruits: Freres Cholmeley is the first British law firm to get a licence to practise in East Germany

whether it will also resume its position as financial centre.

Clifford Chance, which opens its new West German offices in Frankfurt next month, has no intention of moving to Berlin in the foreseeable future and there is clearly a view that developments in the East will be slow and tortuous.

Freres, however, has no doubt that Berlin is the place to be. With plans to soon add West German lawyers to its new East German recruits, it sees the Berlin office as the obvious centre for a large practice within a united country. The firm also sees Berlin as the gateway to Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

"Berlin will resume its historic role as a bridge between East and West and the place from which to

vice developments in the eastern countries," Mr Carl says.

For the four East German lawyers who now find themselves on Freres' staff, it represents an amazing transformation. "Even six months ago I would not have believed I would ever be doing this," Dr Guenther Willma, a former legal department head of an engineering import-export company, says.

In charge of the office is Baerbel Luther, who has years of experience handling international deals for East German enterprises. Frau Luther also spent three years in the Paris embassy.

She says: "What westerners may find hard to understand is that after living for such a long time under totalitarianism, East Germans have it deeply ingrained in them to do everything by the book. Put a foot wrong here and you are bound to

fail. So the psychological effects of integration will be very complex. At some levels we will become like westerners very quickly, but in other aspects of life the legacy of communism will remain."

What Mr Carl hopes is that Frau Luther's extensive network of contacts throughout East German industry and in other former socialist countries will make the Berlin office a magnet for East-West deals. "We are providing for more than legal services at the moment," he says. "We are finding partners for joint ventures, advising on denationalization and doing a variety of other business."

For some, however, scepticism about the prospects in the East remains strong — even among the West Germans. "It is not a goldmine here, you know," journalist Rainer Esser warns.

about barristers outside their field of law, she says. It would also help when the barrister failed to turn up for a case and the clerk produced someone else about whom the solicitor knew nothing. "Present directories are quite inadequate for the modern solicitor or other professionals wishing to instruct a barrister. This will be a major step in helping the Bar meet the changes."

The Bar, which is planning to introduce its own directory, may be cautious. But there is no doubt consumers will await the Havers guide (expected by Christmas) with interest. David Tench, legal adviser to the Consumers' Association, says the plans are "good news. Anybody who has to choose a barrister to act in a case, or for advice, whether a solicitor or not, can do with help in choosing the right person for the job."

FRANCES GIBB

SCRIVENOR

Opening the chamber door

A guide likened to a legal *Who's Who* is creating a stir among barristers

by providing much more than any existing directory: she wants, in effect, to give mini-profiles of individual barristers, listing their famous cases, their hobbies and, more controversially, their rates.

Predictably, her plans have received a cool response. Mrs Havers is not beating about the bush. Barristers who do not comply with her request for information on daily charging rates for both general advisory and drafting work, and for daily refreshers for court and tribunal work, will be listed as having declined to do so.

She believes the market is ripe for exploitation. At present, law directories are generally straight lists of

barristers and/or solicitors detailing their year of qualification; and, perhaps, areas of expertise.

There is *Waterlow's*, widely acknowledged to be the market leader and bought by 80 per cent of solicitors; *Butterworth's Law Directory*, ("the best" in the view of one barrister's clerk); and a new directory coming from chambers. The Bar plans its own guide, as does the Law Society. Other guides include *Legal 500*, which covers solicitors' firms (about to expand into law firms in Europe and barristers' chambers); *Hazell's*; and the *Lawyer's Law Diary*.

Catharine Fucey, general manager of Waterlow, says the company

now allows lawyers to include information on their charges. But the new Havers guide hopes that the publishing of charging rates (so far publicized by only one set of chambers) will be standard. Mrs Havers says the guide should help the lay client as much as the professional.

With the Bar opening up, and professions other than solicitors now able to brief counsel direct, there is a large market for such a guide, she says. "Some 300,000 people now can brief barristers, not including all the clients in Europe and elsewhere, and they need to have all the relevant information. Often solicitors know nothing

INNS AND OUTS

Raising partner profiles

Clyde & Co, the City firm best known for its shipping and insurance practices, has brought Rosemarie Ghazaros into the partnership as head of marketing. Ms Ghazaros has joined Clyde & Co from Coopers, Lybrand & Deloitte where she set up its marketing department. Although not a lawyer, she will be treated by the firm as a partner, a fact she describes as the key factor in her decision to join the firm. "Clyde & Co offered me a position at senior level with access to everyone and the ability to make an impact. Also, there was no sense of arrogance among the partners in relation to the new post, which I think can be a problem with some organizations."

Ms Ghazaros was impressed by the "professionalism with which the partners approached recruitment". Despite its strong reputation in certain fields, the firm's public profile is low and it has not yet undertaken a concerted marketing strategy. The appointment of Ms Ghazaros marks a change of direction, although three years ago the firm carried out a piece of market research among clients, prospective clients, graduates and barristers. "At the time Clyde & Co did its research, the idea of market research was more or less scorned at a lawyers' conference at which I was speaking. I remember thinking then in relation to lawyers: 'This would be a hard nut to crack'." Three years later, the attitude of the profession to marketing has changed and Ms Ghazaros feels ready to face her new colleagues, whom she describes as "very sharp, very challenging and very exciting".

The Children's Legal Centre has joined with the Children's Society, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, Shelter and Barnardos to form the Coalition on Young People and Social Security, a response to the growing concern about the effects on young people of changes in social security legislation. Under present rules, most young people aged 16 and 17 are unable to claim income support and are expected to join a youth-training scheme, get a job or stay in full-time education.

The five charities believe that those with no parental home are hit particularly hard when none of these options is available and that many end up homeless, turning to crime or begging to support themselves. The main objectives of the coalition will be to persuade the Government to reinstate income support for young people aged 16 or over who are unable to find training or a job and to award young people aged 16 or over, who are living independently, the same income support paid to people 25 and over.

As the champagne flowed at Freshfield's new offices in Whitefriars to mark its official opening, the assembled gathering of lawyers from around the world marvelled at the sweeping architecture. Originally designed as a trading floor, the offices are dominated by the central atrium, which extends from the ground-floor library to a glass ceiling soaring high above. The internal manoeuvring over who got which office was based on a general belief that it was better to look out onto the street than into the atrium. But the best views are from the top two floors and those offices were snatched by the litigation department, because, as one partner ruefully commented, they proved to be the most skilful negotiators.

For some firms, the right address is all-important. But for City firm Norton Rose, a recent entry into an association with the M5 Group has laid it open to a little leg-pulling from competitors. Letters addressed to Norton Rose M5 Group, "London office", have been arriving through the post, provoking the firm to respond pointing out the error.

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THE LAW

An improper confession

As the judicial inquiry gets under way into the Maguire convictions, which, with those of the Guildford Four, arose from the Guildford and Woolwich public house bombings, it is worth remembering that the Government is still considering proposals to curb the suspect's right to silence.

Supporters of this move decline to accept the disturbing questions raised by the Guildford Four case and argue that such a miscarriage of justice could not re-occur because of improved protections afforded suspects under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

Likewise, the Home Office Working Group on the Right of Silence recommended abolition of the right because of safeguards now in operation under PACE.

Such a view is, however, dangerously naive if it ignores the fact that many protections do not apply to terrorist suspects and that recent Court of Appeal cases have exposed disturbing loopholes in the detention and interrogation provisions.

Moreover, in two important areas — access to legal advice and methods of interviewing suspects — the courts have opened up important loopholes to PACE which some police officers will have little difficulty exploiting.

On all trials the prosecution

LEGAL BRIEF

Despite improved safeguards for suspects, loopholes still exist in interview procedures, Anthony Jennings reports

must satisfy the court that a confession has not been obtained by "oppression" or by anything said or done which is likely to render it "unreliable" (s76). This is a much more restrictive test than the previous common law test of "voluntariness", but the court is allowed to exclude evidence if its admission would have "such an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings".

A detained suspect has a right to consult with a solicitor at any time and the Act lays down the limited and exceptional circumstances in which access to a solicitor may be delayed. In 1987, the Court of Appeal in *Samuel* described the right as "fundamental" and made clear that there was a heavy burden on the police to establish the proper grounds.

Mr Justice Hodgson went as far as saying that access could only be delayed if the police reasonably believed a particular solicitor would deliberately pass on information to criminal associates

of the suspects; or that a witty criminal could trick a solicitor into doing so.

But the Court of Appeal recently retreated from its position in *Samuel*. In a case called *Dunsford* this year, it allowed evidence of a confession of a defendant who had wrongly been denied access to a solicitor, noting the defendant's previous record and experience and concluding that a solicitor's advice would have "added nothing to the defendant's knowledge of his rights".

Furthermore, recent research for the Lord Chancellor's Department showed that only 25 per cent of suspects request legal advice and only 20 per cent of suspects receive it. They also discovered 22 police officers to prevent suspects receiving such advice.

The PACE codes of practice require "interviews" at police stations or other premises to be contemporaneously recorded if practicable. Police officers must also attempt to obtain a defendant's approval of the contents of the interview. But, of course, if the discussion does not amount to an interview, then none of the code's requirements apply.

The latest Court of Appeal authority defines an interview as "any discussions or talk between a suspect and a police officer" who ever instigates it (*Matthews* (1989)). The codes of practice contain an important protection, code 12.12, ostensibly aimed at preventing "verbalising", or fabricating confessions.

The code's laudable aim is to stop improper interviews at the scene of the crime, on the way to the police station or in the police cells and to ensure that all interviews take place in controlled circumstances; police are instructed to try to obtain the suspect's approval of the alleged confession if he or she is still in the police station when the record is made.

Despite a number of court rulings that the provision applies to interviews wherever they take place, the Court of Appeal last year (*Bresiane*) held that it only covers interviews in police stations. This decision will undoubtedly encourage interviews in circumstances where there is no access to legal advice and no guarantee of accuracy.

More disturbingly, as judges have pointed out, this interpreta-



Protection of suspects: the Maguire convictions, now under review, raise some disturbing questions

tion would allow police to set up mobile interview rooms in an attempt to circumvent the codes.

How serious must a breach be before the evidence is excluded? The Court of Appeal made clear last year that only "significant and substantial" breaches will lead to evidence being excluded.

Lord Lane was robust in his criticism of a number of police officers' "flagrant, deliberate and cynical" breaches of code 11 in *Canale* (1989). But that should not necessarily be seen as heralding a new judicial attitude.

Future cases where breaches of the code are less flagrant may not be subjected to the same admirable approach. Furthermore, the decisions in *Dunsford* and *Bresiane* have opened up serious loopholes which could easily lead to injustice in future.

The May inquiry may want to consider the effect of restricting the right of silence. But this would only increase the opportunities for injustice. Before complacency starts to dictate our view of the true extent of the protections under PACE, its provisions need strengthening to ensure that cases similar to the Guildford Four can never occur again.

Anthony Jennings is a barrister in both England and Northern Ireland and editor of *Justice Under Fire: The Abuse of Civil Liberties in Northern Ireland* (Pingu Press) updated in paperback on May 17, £12.95.

Law Report May 29 1990 Court of Appeal

Prospective tenant's periodic payments created a tenancy at will

Javid v Agil
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment May 15]

Where parties entered into negotiations for a lease of premises, which ultimately proved abortive, and pending the outcome of those negotiations the owner allowed the prospective tenant to occupy the premises and accepted from him periodic payments, the circumstances, including the fact that the parties had not yet agreed terms of the proposed lease, justified an inference that they had not intended to create a periodic tenancy. Accordingly, the judge had properly held that the tenant had entered into possession as a tenant at will.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the tenant, Mr Agil, from an order made in favour of the landlord, Mr S. Javid, on December 14, 1987 by the late Judge Stacey at Shoreham.

County Court ordering the tenant to give up possession of the premises.

Mr Peter Harvey for the tenant; Mr Colin Challenger for the landlord.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the case turned on the distinction between a tenancy at will and a periodic tenancy.

Shortly stated, a tenancy at will existed where the tenant was on terms that either party might determine it at any time. A periodic tenancy, on the other hand, was one which continued from period to period until determined by proper notice.

Given that a periodic tenancy could exist where the period was very short indeed, a layman could be forgiven for being surprised to find that the distinction between a periodic tenancy and a tenancy at will could be all-important for the purposes of the statutory protection afforded to business tenants.

But such, it was now estab-

lished, was the effect of Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954: see *Whitely v Mercer* (1957) AC 416 and *Hogee (London) Ltd v A. B. Erikson and Larson* (1976) QB 209.

The defendant had been let into occupation by the plaintiff premises owned by the plaintiff while negotiations proceeded for the grant to him of a 10-year lease.

For some months he was there with the plaintiff's consent on three conditions: he had paid rent on a quarterly basis before negotiations had broken down, and the plaintiff had told him to leave.

Was the defendant in occupation as a tenant at will, as contended by the landlord, or as a tenant of a periodic tenancy, as decided by the judge? If he was, then the judge had been right to order him to give up possession. Or was he a quarterly tenant, as he contended? If so, he had the statutory protection afforded to business tenants.

Much of the argument before

the court had been directed at the legal consequences which followed from proof of possession and payment of rent by reference to a quarterly period.

For the defendant it had been submitted that proof of those facts raised a presumption in favour of a periodic tenancy which could only be rebutted, and the occupant held to be a tenant at will, by an express agreement to that effect.

Alternatively, that presumption was not rebutted by the fact that the grant of a lease was under discussion, in a case where a substantial sum had been paid over as rent in advance.

For the plaintiff it had been contended that payment of rent of so much per week or month, failing more the inference sensibly and reasonably to be drawn was that the parties intended that there should be a weekly or monthly tenancy.

His Lordship could not accept the defendant's contention "failing more" should be emphasized. Frequently, there would be

more. Indeed, currently there normally would be other material surrounding circumstances.

The simple situation was unlikely to arise often, not least because of the extent to which states had intervened in landlord-tenant relationships. Where there was more than the simple situation, the inference sensibly and reasonably to be drawn would depend upon a fair consideration of all the circumstances, of which the payment of rent on a periodical basis was only one, albeit a very important one.

To that one observation should be added, having in mind the facts of the instant case. Where parties were negotiating the terms of a proposed lease, and the prospective tenant was let into possession in advance of, and in anticipation of, terms being agreed, the fact that the parties had not yet agreed terms would be a factor to be taken into account in ascertaining their intention. It would

often be a weighty factor.

In *Dor v Lord* (1848) 6 CB 90 Chief Justice Wilde reviewed some of the earlier authorities. He did so in the context of an argument that from the payment of rent on a yearly basis the law presumed a tenancy from year to year, in the absence of evidence referring such payment of rent to some other contract.

Thus the decision was of particular relevance having regard to the defendant's argument in the instant case. The case was clear authority for the proposition that regard had to be had to the particular circumstances in which the rent payments were made.

That principle, expressed well over a century ago, had never been doubted. That decision was inconsistent with the defendant's submissions in the instant case.

Of course, the circumstances in which the principle fell to be applied had much changed since those earlier Victorian days. But

those changes had not invalidated the underlying principle.

The shift in emphasis discernible in judicial observations in this field in recent cases was no more than a reflection of the same approach applied in the different circumstances which came before the court today.

His Lordship referred to *Longrigg, Burroughs and Tounson v Smith* (1979) 25 EG 847, *Sopwith v Stutchbury* (1983) 17 HLR 50 and *Cordiothoracic Institute v Shrewsbury* Ltd (1986) 1 WLR 368 as representing applications of the principle which he had adumbrated.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal. Entry into possession while negotiations proceeded was one of the classic circumstances in which a tenancy at will might exist.

Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Kumar & Co, 11, Ford, Hawker & Co.

Court has power to grant stay of minister's decision

Regina v Secretary of State for Education and Science, Ex parte Avon County Council
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Taylor and Sir George Waller
[Judgment May 15]

When leave had been granted to apply for judicial review to quash a decision of a minister, the court had jurisdiction under Order 53, rule 3(10)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to order a stay of the implementation of the decision under challenge pending determination of the application for judicial review.

The Court of Appeal so held in considering an appeal by Avon County Council against a decision by Mr Justice Kennedy who had granted the council leave to apply for orders of certiorari to quash decisions of the Secretary of State for Education and Science concerning certain schools and to quash the Beeches Cliff School Grant Maintenance Status Transitional Provisions Order of March 20, 1990 but had held that he had no power to grant a stay.

The Court of Appeal did not, in the event, grant a stay because it became possible to arrange an early hearing of the substantive application but gave its reasons in a reserved judgment for holding that the power existed.

Order 53 rule 3(10) of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "Where leave is granted to apply for judicial review, the court may, if it thinks fit, make such orders as it may think fit, including an order for a stay of the implementation of the decision under challenge pending determination of the application for judicial review."

On that issue the views expressed by Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Taylor in *Smith Kline & French (No 2)*, although obiter, remain unaffected by *Factortame*.

In his Lordship's view, the question came back to the issue whether the phrase "a stay of the proceedings" was apt to include decisions made by the secretary of state, and the process by which he reached such decisions.

If the view that the phrase was wide enough to embrace such decisions was correct it followed that what was sought was just as much a stay as it would be in relation to a decision of judgment of an inferior court.

It was not properly described as an injunction, which was an order directed at a party to litigation, out to the court or decision making body. Of course, in some respects an application for judicial review appeared to have similarities to civil proceedings between two opposing parties, in which an injunction might be ordered by the court at the suit of one party directed at the other.

When correctly analyzed, however, the apparent similarity disappeared. Proceedings for judicial review, in the field of public law, were not a dispute between two parties, each with an interest to protect, for which an injunction might be appropriate.

Judicial review, by way of an

application for certiorari, was a challenge to the way in which a decision had been arrived at. The decision maker might appear to argue that his or its decision was reached by an appropriate procedure. But the decision maker was out in any true sense an opposing party any more than an inferior court whose decision was challenged was an opposing party.

The distinction between an injunction and a stay arose out of the difference between the positions of the persons or bodies concerned. Thus an order that a decision of a person or body whose decisions were open to challenge by judicial review should not take effect until the challenge had finally been determined was correctly described as a stay.

For those reasons his Lordship was of the opinion that a decision made by an officer or minister of the Crown could, in principle be stayed by an order of the court.

In addition to the general challenge to the court's power to stay a decision of an officer or minister of the Crown, Miss Baxendale advanced another argument, based upon the particular statutory provisions under which the secretary of state's decision in the instant case was made, to support the proposition that the court had no power to order a stay.

The Transitional Provisions Order made by the secretary of state and his decision to approve the acquisition of grant maintained status by Beeches Cliff School were respectively made under the provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988.

Section 62 of that Act dealt with proposals for the acquisition by a school of grant maintained status. By section 62(11) the secretary of state might approve the proposals published by the governors.

The date proposed in the proposals for implementation became the "incorporation date" (section 104(3)). All the events which occurred on that day, it was argued, were the direct result of the statutory provisions and a court could not stay the effect of a statute.

That argument was based on a logical fallacy. The effect of a stay would not be to nullify the various statutory provisions. It would be to defer the date for the implementation of the proposals until the judicial review proceedings were concluded. If the secretary of state's decision was not quashed, the various statutory provisions would take effect.

His Lordship, therefore concluded that the court had jurisdiction, in appropriate circumstances, to order a stay of the implementation of decisions such as those under challenge in those proceedings, pending the final resolution of that challenge.

Lord Justice Taylor delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Basil D. Smith, Bristol, Treasury Solicitor

first instance granted a declaration to that effect, but the Court of Appeal reversed the decision.

Both *Kline & French* then applied for an interim injunction restraining the use of the information pending the determination of their petition for leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The court dismissed the application. However, the majority (Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Taylor) were of the opinion that the court had power to grant both declaratory and injunctive relief against officers of the Crown.

Moreover, all the members of the court, including Lord Justice Dillon, were of the view that the phrase "the proceedings" in Order 53, rule 3(10)(a) should be construed widely, so that in an appropriate case a stay could be ordered against the Crown.

Lord Justice Dillon, however, took the view that the order sought in that case was of the nature of an injunction out to a stay and that there was no power to grant an injunction against officers of the Crown.

Lord Justice Dillon's view regarding the limitation on the court's power to grant injunctions was upheld in *R v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame Ltd* (1989) 2 WLR 997 and the decision of the majority in *Smith Kline & French (No 2)* on that issue was thus overruled.

It had to be noted, however, that in *Factortame* their Lordships were not concerned with, and did not consider, the power of the court to stay a decision made by an officer of the Crown under Order 53, rule 3(10)(a).

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Judicial review, by way of an

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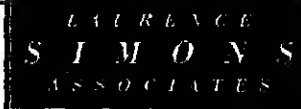
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TENNIS

Chang returns and settles back into the winning routine

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

PARIS seemed to have contrasting effects on the fortunes of Michael Chang and Andre Agassi on the opening day of the French championships, although both reached the second round.

The defending champion arrived with only two victories in seven matches, neither of them on clay, but he improved on that lamentable record with a comfortable win over the sturdy Brazilian, Cassio Motta. Agassi arrived with barely 24 hours to spare before his match against Marty Wostenholme, and nearly paid the penalty, both on court and in his pocket, surviving only after breaking his racket in two, getting a warning for racket abuse and losing the first set.

Chang did not take long to get back into the old routine, either off court or on it. "It certainly doesn't feel like a year ago since I won here," he admitted. "The time has gone incredibly fast. I kept telling myself recently that it had time, and here it was. It was like that with my homework. I suddenly found I only had an hour left to do it and had to cram."

Chang had no need for any last-minute heroics against Motta. He quickly established his dominance and, once he had taken the tie-break in the second set, it was only a matter of time.

Still, for Chang this year, any win is a good win and he clearly felt at home again. "It might be the people, the clay, maybe the bread, but I always seem to have good luck here. Paris just clicks with me," Chang said.

Agassi has not had much time to get to know any of the local delicacies and his lack of preparation was all too apparent, both in his display of temper and his lack of timing. If it had been cricket, Agassi would have had a century to his name after the first hour of play, so often did the ball soar into the upper tiers of the stands on No. 2 court.

At one point, a drive-volley disappeared over the equivalent of long-on and was last seen heading towards the centre court. Typically, the young American refused to admit that his late arrival had anything to do with his lacklustre performance.

"Flying in the day before the tournament doesn't concern me at all," he said. "I don't seem to suffer from jetlag - maybe it's my age. The main problem was getting used to the clay. Strangely, Agassi's mind did not seem to link the two, though it might have made the connection better if Wostenholme had not steadfastly refused to take advantage of Agassi's rustiness."

Having taken the first set 6-

4, Wostenholme had nine break points in the No. 3 seed's opening two service games in the second set, but converted none of them. In the second of those, Agassi became so frustrated with himself, the umpire and all around him that he smashed his racket on the ground, throwing the handle to the crowd, in a novel variation of a favourite theme, and receiving a warning from the British umpire, Sultan Ganghi - for the breakage not the throw.

When he was finally broken at 4-3, it seemed the American's lack of practice on clay was about to be exposed, but he broke back to level at 4-4 and again to 5-5 before taking the tie-break on his fourth set point.

Poor Wostenholme could only rue the two set points he had to take a 2-0 lead. The chance spurned, the Canadian's legs turned to jelly thereafter, and Agassi raced through the final two sets with the loss of only one game.

Monique Javer, the British No. 1, had to fight equally hard against the fiercest Greek, Angelika Kanellidou. The Californian-based Javer saved three match points in the final set before reaching the second round.

Javer has had nearly as unique a preparation for this tournament as Agassi. Without a regular coach of her own, Javer recruited her mother to workout with her last Thursday. Javer was not amused that the Lawn Tennis Association has refused her application for a coach, but under the "self-help" policy adopted by the new women's international team manager, Ann Jones, she should perhaps have known better.

It was back to the old routine too for Steffi Graf, who took just 40 minutes to defeat Pascale Paradis 6-0, 6-2, and for Zina Garrison, who did the misfortune to be the first seed to go out. Berger and Fairbank followed later. First on court at 11am, Garrison did not relish her early start. "I was up at 7am, but I'm just not a morning person," she said.

Eddery and Carson share riding honours with a treble apiece at Sandown



Dajour (Willie Carson) sprinting clear from Tigani to capture the Sears Temple Stakes at Sandown

Champion tests his Derby options

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

PAT Eddery is to ride Digression in a gallop at Pulborough on Saturday morning before deciding whether to partner Khaled Abdulla's Goodwood disappointment or either Quest For Fame or Sanglamore for same owner in the Ever Ready Derby tomorrow week.

The reigning champion jockey continued in irresistible form at Sandown yesterday, adding a treble of 62-1 to his Derby following victory on Furajet, Aldbourne and Pursey Street. "I'll ride Quest For Fame in a gallop at Beekhampton on Wednesday and then Digression on Saturday before making up my mind," said Eddery.

Roger Charlton is inclined to prefer Quest For Fame, narrowly defeated by Belmez in the Chester Vase, to Abdulla's William Hill Dante Stakes winner Sanglamore.

"Pat thinks that he'll handle the track and will like firm ground," said the trainer.

"Sanglamore is therefore very much a possibility for the

French Derby on Sunday."

Charlton also had news of Jeremy Tree, who is in the Ridgeway Hospital near Swindon after suffering a slight heart attack. "He's much better. He's sitting up in bed and watching the racing on television."

Further Derby news concerned Sasaki. Michael Stoute's one-time ante-post favourite, who returned to form when winning at York. "We'll make a decision after he's worked on Wednesday morning," said the trainer. "But judged by the way he worked on Saturday he's likely to run, if all goes well."

The principal betting activity yesterday on the most puzzling Derby known for years concerned the favourite Razeen, whose price was cut from 7-2 to 3-1 with Ladbrokes. In this open year, the punters are starting to get in behind the only unbeaten horse in the race and Steve Cauthen.

But the reigning champion trainer had a welcome change of luck when Walter Swinburn and Teamster stormed home to an easy win in the Mappin and Webb Henry II Stakes. "This much-improved stayer is now on target for an attempt to give the trainer a second win in the Ascot Gold Cup."

As when winning on the royal course recently, Teamster went clear early in the straight and if Swinburn had not been taking things easy inside the distance the pair would have won much further than by the official four lengths.

The other pattern race, the group two Sears Temple Stakes, resulted in an emphatic win for Dajour, whom Willie Carson punched home two lengths ahead of Tigani, after making virtually all the running on the straight.

Stoute has certainly had a frustrating weekend, with the disappointing news about Rock Hopper's withdrawal from the Derby following his surprise defeat by Heart Of Joy's surprise defeat by In The Groove in Saturday's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

1,000 Guineas but pulled a muscle on her final appearance at Ascot. Rae Guest now plans to run the filly in the Queen Anne Stakes.

The principal gamble of the day took place on Field Glass in the Selfridges Whitcup. Stoute's Essex Cup winner was backed down from 9-2 in the morning to 1-5 favourite, but was under pressure over a furlong from home and eventually finished fourth behind Taffia, whom Carson brought with a storming run to catch Pride Of Araby close home.

William Jarvis now plans to send Taffia for the Royal Hunt Cup where, with a 7lb penalty, she will meet yesterday's runner-up on 7lb terms. Carson continued in irresistible form and matched Eddery in every department when landing his own treble of 57-1 when forcing Loch Dutch home about a furlong from home in the Wallis Stakes.

Lafranco Detori had an unpleasant-looking fall when Muirfield Village fell six furlongs from home. The jockey was brought back in an ambulance but escaped with nothing worse than a severe shaking.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

2.05 (2m) 1. FURAJET (Pat Eddery, 15-8; 2. Digression (W. Carson, 10-1); 3. Sanglamore (R. Charlton, 10-1); 4. Quest For Fame (R. Charlton, 10-1); 5. Aldbourne (R. Charlton, 10-1); 6. Pursey Street (R. Charlton, 10-1); 7. Tigani (W. Carson, 10-1); 8. Dajour (W. Carson, 10-1); 9. Razeen (W. Carson, 10-1); 10. Heart Of Joy (W. Carson, 10-1); 11. In The Groove (W. Carson, 10-1); 12. Field Glass (W. Carson, 10-1); 13. Taffia (W. Carson, 10-1); 14. Pride Of Araby (W. Carson, 10-1); 15. Loch Dutch (W. Carson, 10-1); 16. Wallis Stakes (W. Carson, 10-1); 17. Muirfield Village (W. Carson, 10-1); 18. Lafranco Detori (W. Carson, 10-1); 19. Taffia (W. Carson, 10-1); 20. Pride Of Araby (W. Carson, 10-1); 21. Loch Dutch (W. Carson, 10-1); 22. Wallis Stakes (W. Carson, 10-1); 23. Muirfield Village (W. Carson, 10-1); 24. Lafranco Detori (W. Carson, 10-1); 25. Taffia (W. Carson, 10-1); 26. Pride Of Araby (W. Carson, 10-1); 27. Loch Dutch (W. Carson, 10-1); 28. Wallis Stakes (W. Carson, 10-1); 29. 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Derbyshire's hopes dashed as French hits maiden century

By MARTIN SEARBY

DERBY (final day of three): Derbyshire (7pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (6)

IF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE are to have a realistic chance of winning their fifth championship title, they will surely have to be more positive than they were here, where Derbyshire, set to make an unreasonable 318 in 47 overs, could have been very hard-pressed had they been involved in a chase rather than survival.

Tim Robinson, the Nottinghamshire captain, may claim that his side, having fought their way back into the game, would have been silly to throw it away. But, arguably, he might have considered, as Derbyshire would, that a target of 297 in 50 overs would have held out the prospect of a better finish to a fluctuating match which offered high class and gritty batting, some excellent fast bowling and not a little acrimony.

The odds heavily favoured Derbyshire when Mark Saxelby fell to a slip catch in the first over of the day but it was a very long 23 overs before the sixth-wicket partnership was broken as Randall, who played very well, if eccentrically, was caught at cover off a long hop.

Derbyshire remain convinced he was caught behind when only one and, as he was leaving the field, Randall turned back to a gathering of players with something to add to their dismissive comments.

He eventually walked away after some further advice from

Barnett, the Derbyshire captain. Randall, who claimed a loose visor on his helmet was responsible for the audible click which caused so much ill-feeling, profited from much easier conditions yesterday.

He batted for just under three hours, in which he struck 11 fours, but any relief Derbyshire felt at his departure was soon dissipated by the game French, who survived two blows on the helmet to complete an admirable maiden century.

Malcolm bowled a 90-minute spell of 11 overs to the morning and sustained his pace pretty well for a man suffering from influenza. But he was not as accurate as on the second day and both Randall and French benefited regularly from deliveries which could be driven or cut.

Bishop, too, was disappointing in his line.

In some desperation Barnett produced his own leg spin for the 38th over and Mike was unfortunate to see his backhand defensive shot allow the ball to trickle back onto his stumps when the lead was 235 and 60 overs remained.

French received a second blow to the helmet, which required a further replacement, when Malcolm hit him behind the left ear but drove Mortenson straight for six and had 15 mainly well-struck boundaries to his century.

During the latter part of his innings, which lasted for 210 minutes, he was joined by Cooper in a cavalier partnership which went on too long for the session to have any real meaning.

Derbyshire, who declined to chase 267 in 52 overs at Nottingham last month, could hardly have been expected to accept this latest offer. Robinson, cursing bruised fingers, was absent when Morris fell to a return catch held by Cooper who stuck out a hand to his follow-through. The promotion of Warner to No. 3 was mere window dressing.

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Familiar pose: Ian Botham hits out at Edgbaston with wicketkeeper Geoff Humpage an admiring spectator

Tailend frolic follows some French cricket by Botham

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (second day of three): Warwickshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, lead Worcestershire by 62 runs

IF THIS is not the stuff of holiday cricket, it is at least a contest. That it runs so after Worcester's collapse to 164 for eight over everything to an unbroken partnership of 89 between Neal Radford and Graham Dilley, as inspiring as it was unlikely.

The first two sessions revolved, as many still do, around the antics of Botham. For a start, he was Worcestershire's top scorer. In the morning he batted diligently and at times pleasingly. In the afternoon he chose not to score off 31 consecutive balls from Booth who had switched to bowling over the wicket into the rough outside leg stump.

Eschewing any attempt to play the ball, Botham made liberal use of both pads as if participating in French cricket. He had made 43 by then, yet had no intention of hitting against the spin into a packed leg side field. It was responsible batting, taken to extremes, which the headless saw as bloody-mindedness. In the 1930s, when George Paize used much the same tactic as Booth, did cover to contain Botham, MCC made their dis-

pleasure known to Warwickshire. For entertainment, the sizeable crowd had to wait until after tea. For the most part Worcester had had a job to cope with Donald's extra pace and Muntun's away swing. West-100 was caught behind in the second over of the day. Curis survived a number of lbw appeals before he fell to Benjamin and Neale spent an hour over his first five runs.

When Neale was taken at the wicket off Donald, it was through trying to glide him a third man, something he had managed hitherto to good effect. Humpage's other catches came through attempted drives. Muntun taking four wickets in six overs. He conceded only five runs in this period, moving the ball away from the right-hander as the atmosphere became hazy. He was undoubtedly helped by Booth's tactics at the other end.

With Rhodes and Newport out cheaply and Milngwath having fractured his right thumb on Saturday, only Radford and Dilley remained. They did so, however, as Worcester's declared 42 runs behind, striking the ball as cleanly as anyone. They put on 89 in 28 overs and needed only a mod-

icum of luck, one dropped catch, to do so.

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N Zealand make most of perfect pitch

By JACK BAILEY

HOVE (third day of three): New Zealand beat Sussex by seven wickets

IT WAS a day with nearly everything in it for everybody. For New Zealand there was victory. The target set by Sussex of 341 runs from 71 overs was accomplished with 14 balls to spare. Wright, Franklin, Jeff Crowe and Greenbach all making good use of the opportunities afforded by this perfect pitch against an attack with more variety if less pugnacity than they are likely to meet elsewhere on their travels.

For Sussex there was the satisfaction of giving an excellent account of themselves in the absence of several leading players. There was a century for Colin Wells to follow scores of 94 and 99 not out in his previous first class matches. There was a maiden century by Doddsmaide, pressed into service at number three and playing with great good sense while Colin Wells sparked at the other end. He eventually matched his partner's stroke for stroke before Sussex declared with only two wickets down.

New Zealand approached their last innings task with the confidence born of experience. Success on many similar ventures. All their batsmen played with purpose. The chase at nearly five runs per over was always paced at the asking rate or thereabouts. The only real worry was whether one of the best pitches he is likely to encounter.

While Wright was quickly into his stride, Franklin faced 34 balls without scoring, seemingly unperturbed, but he was a couple of times off the stump before the elusive single arrived. But he blossomed. He and Wright, who hit the ball with great power square on either side of the wicket, put on 147 and New Zealand were away. Jeff Crowe's undefeated 61 was the cornerstone of the later part of New Zealand's effort and will have done him a deal of good.

Apart from the batting of young Hall in both innings, which won him the Telford Bitter man of the match award, a beneficial part of this match from the Sussex viewpoint has been the opportunity to give a lengthy airing to their two most recent recruits from MCC's young cricketers: Donelan and Salisbury.

Donelan's bowling in this match has been exceptionally good. He spins the ball and has a nicely disguised flight, aided by a deceptively quick arm action. For an offspinner to have the New Zealand batsmen guessing on this dream of a pitch was as unlikely as it was praiseworthy.

SUSSEX: First Innings 300 for 4 (C W Hall 120 not out, A P Wells 86, N J Latham 64). Second Innings 270 for 6 (N J Latham 64, P Wells 86, N J Latham 64). Total (2 wks) 570.

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SWIMMING Foster gets a timely reprieve

By CRAIG LORD

MARK Foster took the sprint freestyle category title at the British Milk to Action Grand Prix final in Leeds last night, after one of his Barnet Capital teammates withdrew from the final of the 100 metres freestyle, the experienced internationalist a surprise from an embarrassing slow morning heat.

Foster failed to qualify for the final by 0.08sec in a time unworthy of the man who won the bronze medal in the 50 metres freestyle at the Commonwealth Games in January. But the withdrawal from the race of Paul Pederczoli gave Foster a second bite at the cherry.

The 6ft 6in Londoner surged ahead from an explosive start in lane 12, overtook the swimmer from the City of Birmingham, and Campbell McNeil, of Paisley.

Foster faded towards the end of the race, held on to win in 1:37.65sec, from McNeil's 1:37.75sec and Bulphit's 1:38.55sec. The victory secured the sprint category for Foster, who then went on to win the 100 metres butterfly in 1:57.35sec.

Lorraine Coombes, of City of Southampton, emerged victorious in the breaststroke category against Suki Brownson, of Wigan

Admirable Australian stands firm in the face of a spectacular challenge

Harwood holds off Faldo

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MIKE Harwood, of Australia, won the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth yesterday and denied Nick Faldo a record fifth success. Faldo, who had been unbeaten in the last three holes to claim the most important win of his career.

Harwood's 67 earned him the first prize of £66,660 with a total of 271, 17 under par, and Faldo, whose 65 was the best round of the tournament, had to share second place with John Bland (67), of South Africa, one stroke adrift.

There was much to admire about the way Harwood, winner of the Australian PGA Championship in 1986 and two previous tournaments on the PGA European Tour, rallied under the pressure of Faldo's challenge.

There seemed the distinct likelihood of him faltering, having seized the lead from José María Olazábal with birdies at the 10th and 11th followed by an eagle three on the 12th from 20 feet, as Faldo fought to retain the title he won last year.

Faldo, out in 34, launched a remarkable inward half of 31 with a birdie from 27 feet at the 10th. He would mark six other birdies on his card, although in retrospect one of them should have been an eagle. He reduced the 12th to a one-iron and a three-wood but his attempt for a three from 10 feet failed to find the sanctuary of the hole.

"I guess that miss, and dropping a shot at the 13th, cost me the tournament," Faldo said. "There were a number of guys who could have won, although I'm not surprised it turned out to be Mike. He's solid, swings it well and he stuck in there well today when he needed to."

In fact, Harwood, aged 31, whose seven-month-old daughter, Megan Jane, kept him awake for much of the previous evening, wobbled when he visited bunkers at both the 13th and 15th holes to drop shots. "I just didn't know where the ball was going off the tee," Harwood said.

"My striking was not good all week, but my putting was exceptional. If I had struck the ball well then I could have won the tournament by a street."

There was little wroth, however, with the eight-iron he struck to four feet for a birdie at the 16th, although it was another good putt, one of 10 feet, which gave him the birdie at the 17th that took him into the lead again as Faldo narrowly failed to make an eagle at the 18th.

Harwood has also earned a



Trappings of success: Harwood manages to escape from a birdie at Faldo on his way to victory at Wentworth yesterday

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Harwood has also earned a

10-year exemption on the PGA European Tour, while Faldo has the consolation of knowing that after a week of hard labour under the studios eye of David Leadbetter, his coach, he is now on course for the US Open, although he will first concentrate on the Dunhill Masters at Woburn this week.

For Bland, who was No. 1 in the Order of Merit in his native South Africa last season, this was another fine performance. He has finished fifth and fourth in his only two previous appearances this season in Europe and he has already earned £62,423, almost £20,000 more than he won in official money throughout last season.

Rodger Davis, playing with Faldo, had seven birdies in the last eight holes for a 66, which gave him a share of fourth

place with Olazábal (70). Ian Woosnam has kept his place at the top of the Volvo Order of Merit with £145,595, but Davis, who has surpassed himself at 33-1, is now fourth with £122,153.

Gordon Brand jun has not had the best of seasons, with a top finish of eighth from 10 tournaments, but he enjoyed a change of fortune in spite of taking six at the short 10th, where he tried without success to play from a ditch before eventually taking a penalty drop.

Thereafter Brand could do little wrong. He had seven birdies in the remaining eight holes for a 66 and a score of 279, nine under par.

Sandy Lyle is not playing in the Dunhill Masters, which starts at Woburn on Thursday.

Play-off win for Douglass
MALVERN, Pennsylvania (AP) Dave Douglass sank a six-foot putt for par on the second play-off hole to defeat Gary Player and win the Bell Atlantic Classic for his sixth Senior Tour victory.

Douglass and Player were tied at four-under-par on 206 after 54 holes on the 6,406-yard par-70 Chester Valley course on Sunday.

After halving the first play-off hole, the fifteenth, Player drove the ball into the rough, failed to get the green on his approach and missed a difficult putt for a double bogey.

Douglass, who last won two years ago, took a one-stroke lead into the final round. He offset birdies — achieved with three long putts — with three bogeys.

YACHTING

Fitton ends unbeaten run of Local Hero

By a CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in this year's McIlwain's series, organised by the Clyde Cruising Club, there was a steady breeze to take the 230 yachts on a brisk sail over the Olympic course set in Loch Fyne.

Simon Pender, winner of the McIlwain's Trophy for the most outstanding performance for the past two years, did not do as well as he did in the first two races of this year's event when he seemed likely to take the trophy for a third time.

He could only finish third, the same position as he did on Sunday, when he was beaten by Signa 33, St John, who was more than a minute behind Robert Wilson's Carman with Richard Jackson's White Lightning separating them 17 seconds behind the winner.

In the 10th place, Geoffrey Howson's run of successes in his Humphrey 33 Local Hero V, was ended when he could only finish second to another Humphrey 33, that of Allan Fitton: Scenario Encore. Last owned by Anderson and Findlay was third.

Gordon Ray's Scorpio, a first 30, achieved a third in the 30-minute handicap class IV with more than three minutes to spare on corrected time for the Campi, Toucan II, owned by Messrs Johnston and Muir.

Frank Dunnett's Wooden Swan, Valhalla of Ashton was third.

RESULTS: McIlwain's series
McIlwain's series: 1. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 2. FV 33; 3. Signa 33; 4. Local Hero V (A) 33; 5. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 6. FV 33; 7. Signa 33; 8. Local Hero V (A) 33; 9. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 10. FV 33; 11. Signa 33; 12. Local Hero V (A) 33; 13. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 14. FV 33; 15. Signa 33; 16. Local Hero V (A) 33; 17. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 18. FV 33; 19. Signa 33; 20. Local Hero V (A) 33; 21. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 22. FV 33; 23. Signa 33; 24. Local Hero V (A) 33; 25. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 26. FV 33; 27. Signa 33; 28. Local Hero V (A) 33; 29. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 30. FV 33; 31. Signa 33; 32. Local Hero V (A) 33; 33. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 34. FV 33; 35. Signa 33; 36. Local Hero V (A) 33; 37. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 38. FV 33; 39. Signa 33; 40. Local Hero V (A) 33; 41. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 42. FV 33; 43. Signa 33; 44. Local Hero V (A) 33; 45. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 46. FV 33; 47. Signa 33; 48. Local Hero V (A) 33; 49. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 50. FV 33; 51. 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Scenario Encore (A) 33; 102. FV 33; 103. Signa 33; 104. Local Hero V (A) 33; 105. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 106. FV 33; 107. Signa 33; 108. Local Hero V (A) 33; 109. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 110. FV 33; 111. Signa 33; 112. Local Hero V (A) 33; 113. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 114. FV 33; 115. Signa 33; 116. Local Hero V (A) 33; 117. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 118. FV 33; 119. Signa 33; 120. Local Hero V (A) 33; 121. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 122. FV 33; 123. Signa 33; 124. Local Hero V (A) 33; 125. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 126. FV 33; 127. Signa 33; 128. Local Hero V (A) 33; 129. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 130. FV 33; 131. Signa 33; 132. Local Hero V (A) 33; 133. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 134. FV 33; 135. Signa 33; 136. Local Hero V (A) 33; 137. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 138. FV 33; 139. Signa 33; 140. Local Hero V (A) 33; 141. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 142. FV 33; 143. Signa 33; 144. Local Hero V (A) 33; 145. Scenario Encore (A) 33; 146. FV 33; 147. Signa 33; 148. Local Hero V (A) 33; 149. 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Swindon's promotion poser

By LOUISE TAYLOR

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Swindon Town..... 1

THE scenario which the Football League had dreaded materialised at Wembley yesterday. An exhilarating yet elegant performance from Swindon Town earned Osvaldo Ardiles the team a place in the first division for the first time in their history.

Whether they will actually assume it remains debatable. Swindon are the subject of a League inquiry, scheduled for later this summer, into alleged irregular payments made to players before Ardiles's arrival last summer, if found guilty, they could still be stripped of their first division place and even demoted to the third division.

League officials must have kept their fingers firmly crossed that a Sunderland would avert such a potential embarrassment, but Ardiles and his men made that a forlorn hope. Sunderland may have enjoyed the monopoly of support inside a packed stadium, but Swindon maintained mastery on the field throughout.

It took 25 minutes before McLoughlin picked up the ball 30 yards from goal, before charging forward and dispatching a dipping shot past the wrong-footed goalkeeper, Norman, courtesy of a deflection from Bennett. Yet by then, they could have been revelling in a three or four-goal advantage.

Charles Hughes, the Football Association's director of coaching, and a disciple of the long-ball approach, may not have cared for the intricacy of passing, but with McLoughlin dictating the midfield, Kerslake and Bodin, the full-backs, over-lapping in textbook fashion, and White breathing fire and brimstone in attack, Swindon were gracing the national stadium in a manner many leading teams, including Liverpool, would have been proud of.

Sunderland's philanthropy in granting them an ample portion of Wembley's wide, open spaces, coupled with the sophisticated passing game practised by the Wiltshire team, was a testimony to the coaching skills of Ardiles at the climax of only his first



Pointing the way: Osvaldo Ardiles, the Swindon manager, directs his team to a stylish victory against Sunderland at Wembley yesterday

season to management. A team whom Lou Macari, Ardiles's predecessor, described as "too limited" to play anything but the long ball, were looking distinctly continental.

By contrast, Sunderland's defending was more third Division than first, and an embarrassing decision by Kay allowed White a clear shot at goal from close range which he inexplicably missed. The forward was subsequently on target from 12 yards after McPhail had blundered, but Norman saved.

A farcical moment in the Wearside rearguard followed when White hit a post and Shearer's attempted follow-up

bobbled across the gaping goalmouth before Bennett finally cleared the danger.

By now, it was becoming easy to lose count of the Swindon chances. The best of the rest included McLoughlin's sprint down the left and Joe-Peter's cross to Jones, who prompted a sprawling save from Norman.

And Sunderland? The fact that Digby did not have a save of consequence to make during the 90 minutes tells its own story. Bennett apart, it is hard to be polite about the defence; Bracewell was virtually anonymous in midfield; and Gabbiani was increasingly isolated and dispirited up front.

However, the enduring mystery concerns the composition of the first division when August arrives. Sunderland, as beaten play-off finalists, and Sheffield Wednesday, who were relegated after finishing eighteenth earlier this month, could benefit from a ruling against Swindon. To purely plain terms, should Swindon fail to appear among the elite, it will be the first division's loss.

SUNDERLAND: A Norman; J Kay, R Agnew, G Bennett, J McPhail, G Owens, P Brownell, G Armstrong, G Bates (sub: I Houston), M Gabbiani, C Pascoe (sub: G Alkinson).

SWINDON TOWN: P Digby, O Kerslake, P Bodin, A McLoughlin, C Cokerwood, J Gittins, T Jones, D Shearer, S White, R McLellan, S Foley.

Referee: J Morris.

A day Ardiles says he will cherish the rest of his life

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE uncertainty surrounding Swindon Town's future status has made it particularly hard for the players, Osvaldo Ardiles, the club manager, said after yesterday's promotion play-off final.

"It has been very, very difficult for the players to prepare," Ardiles said. "They have been under a lot of pressure, but they played superbly. Whatever is going to

happen off the field, we concentrated on playing football.

"Right now we are in the first division, but the rest is out of our hands. I certainly hope that the Football League looks at us, takes a sympathetic view and helps us. It will be an absolute tragedy if we are not playing in the first division next season after the way we played today."

Ardiles said that his players had given him a day he will cherish for the rest of his life.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Barclays League First division

Champions: Liverpool.

Relegated: Millwall, Charlton Athletic, Sheffield Wednesday.

Second division

Champions: Leeds United.

Also promoted: Sheffield United, Swindon Town.

Relegated: Stoke City, Bradford City, Bournemouth.

Third division

Champions: Bristol Rovers.

Also promoted: Bristol City, Notts County.

Relegated: Walsley, Blackpool, Northampton Town, Cardiff City.

Fourth division

Champions: Exeter City.

Also promoted: Grimsby Town, Southend United, Cambridge United.

Relegated: Colchester United.

GM Vauxhall Conference

Champions: Darlington.

FA Cup

Champions: Manchester United.

Littlewoods Cup

Champions: Nottingham Forest.

Lloyds Cup

Champions: Tranmere Rovers.

Zenith Data Systems Cup

Champions: Chelsea.

B and Q Scottish League Premier division

Champions: Rangers.

Relegated: Dundee.

First division

Champions: St Johnstone.

Relegated: Alton, Forth, Alloa Athletic.

Second division

Champions: Stirling City.

Also promoted: Kilmarnock.

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Champions: Aberdeen.

and compared it with the Argentina triumph in the World Cup in 1978, and Tottenham Hotspur's FA Cup win at Wembley in 1981, both of which he played in.

Ardiles said: "I was a little worried that after having so much of the play we were leading only 1-0. Anything could have happened."

For Alan McLoughlin, the scorer of the only goal, it was a day to treasure, coming shortly after his call-up into the Republic of Ireland squad for the World Cup finals. McLoughlin said he would claim the goal, although his shot took a decisive deflection off Bennett, the Sunderland captain.

Denis Smith, the Sunderland manager, said that Swindon's football is a tribute to Ardiles. "It will be a shame if the reward is taken away from him."

According to Smith, Swindon had permitted Swindon far too much space and they took full advantage of it. "I do not know if it was down to the heat, but we were very fortunate to be only 1-0 down at the interval."

Scottish victory cannot dispel defensive fears

From RODDY FORSYTH, MALTA

Malta..... 1
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THE lamentable history of defensive ineptitude, which has characterised Scotland's season and blighted Andy Roxburgh's attempts to secure consistency in the build-up to the World Cup finals, was extended in the Ta'Qali Stadium in Malta yesterday.

Against a team which had not recorded a win since October 1988 Scotland's goalkeeping fragility was exposed in demoralising fashion when hesitancy by Goram and a deflection by McPherson allowed a free kick by Degiorgio into the vacant net two minutes before the interval. It was Scotland's fifth own goal of the season.

At the break the Hibernian goalkeeper was replaced, as arranged before the match, by Leighton, making his first appearance since he was dropped by Manchester United for the FA Cup final replay with Crystal Palace. The manner and timing of the goal is unlikely to have done anything for Goram's confidence. The fact that Scotland won the match with two well executed goals by McInally cannot disguise the truth that they will travel to Geona alarmingly vulnerable around their own penalty area.

Ironically, Scotland constructed a perfect platform for their last warm-up fixture before Italy when McInally put them ahead in the fifth minute. The burly forward gathered possession in central midfield and advanced to beat three defenders with ease before directing a forceful 15-yard drive beyond the stranded Cini.

The Maltese crowd was subdued by Scotland's speedy advantage but they revived as the home team began to find a rhythm midway through the first half. They were particularly gratified when Buttigieg rounded Aitken with ease, and although the Maltese player stumbled he regained possession from the Scottish captain to force a corner.

Scotland were correspondingly less dominant but McInally produced a fine 20-yard reverse pass which set Bett first on the left to deliver a deep cross which Galea was glad to head away for a corner.

At this stage Gillespie bruised a knee and was replaced by Levein.

Malta became increasingly animated as the interval approached and won a free kick 25 yards out on the Scottish right in the 43rd minute. Degiorgio struck the ball to the back post, a play which virtually guarantees confusion among Scottish defenders, but he could scarcely have expected to see Goram coming for the ball only to change his mind and slip as the cross swung beyond him to take a marginal deflection off McPherson into the net.

The Scots might have fallen further behind on the stroke of half-time when Malta constructed a five-man move, completed by a powerful header from Licari who appeared unchallenged in the vicinity of Malpas.

The contest was inevitably distorted by a spree of substitutions in the second half. Leighton, McAllister, McCoist and Collins, replacing Goram, Bennett, Johnston and McStay respectively.

At least the half provided Scotland with a winning goal, again scored by McInally, when he forcefully headed a cross from Malpas nine minutes from time. But the Scots' second victory in eight matches cannot be regarded as any sort of auspicious omen for the more searching examinations on the world stage.

Of McPherson's own goal, the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh, said after the match: "We are very upset about it but it is fairness to the player it glanced off him after just clearing Roy Aitken's head. These situations are fatal at this level. We have spoken about it a great deal but there are some things a manager can't legislate against. What you have to do is chip away and eradicate the flaws."

"We have strength and weaknesses. We must heighten our strength and reduce the weaknesses, but there is always the human error factor."

MALTA: R Cini, S Vella, O Camilleri, J Galea, G Lattin, J Buttigieg, J Zerafa, R Vella, M Gregory, M Degiorgio, G Licari.

SCOTLAND: A Goram (Phibs), R Aitken (Roxburgh), G McPherson (Roxburgh), P McInally (Cini), M Malpas (Dundee United), M Johnston (Rangers), R Bell (Aberdeen), G Gillespie (Liverpool), A McNally (Barnsley), S McCall (Swindon), O McPherson (Heart of Midlothian).

Referee: Carlo Longhi.

Cagliari police miss locals' bus attacks

CAGLIARI (Reuters) — Local football boogymen have stormed more than a dozen buses after a league match in Cagliari, where police fear English and Dutch supporters will clash during the World Cup.

Alberto Aime, Cagliari public bus company spokesman, said yesterday the boogymen smashed the doors, seats and windows of 15 buses for two hours on Sunday night while celebrating Cagliari's victory over Tristina. "I don't know how many were involved," he said. The buses were badly

damaged but he gave no estimate.

Earlier in the day, police, apprehensive of a clash between the English and Dutch supporters, had practised the anti-boogymen tactics at Via Roma wearing anti-riot gear and using helicopters and dogs. By the time they returned, the vandals had fled, Aime said.

More than 3,000 police will be drafted into Sardinia to face the English and Dutch supporters during the month-long spectacle.

Perryman takes flight

THE Brentford manager, Steve Perryman, and his assistant, Phil Holder, flew to Zagreb yesterday hoping to learn something from the World Cup-bound Yugoslavs.

The pair accepted an invitation from the Yugoslav Football Association, initiated by the third division club's Yugoslav-born director, Dan Tana, to study their national side's training and coaching methods, and World Cup preparation.

The former Dutch international, Ruud Krol, was yesterday replaced as coach of Swiss club Servette, having fulfilled his mission of keeping

the once-respected Geneva team in the first division.

Investigations into claims that the Belgian referee, Marcel Van Langenhove, was bribed have been opened by UEFA after a complaint by Olympique Marseilles.

Kevin Richardson, sold by Arsenal to the Spanish club, Real Sociedad, for around £750,000, is set to make his debut against his former club at Wembley in August. The Anglo-Spanish combination will join Aston Villa and Italian club Sampdoria competing for the spoils in the Makita International Tournament.

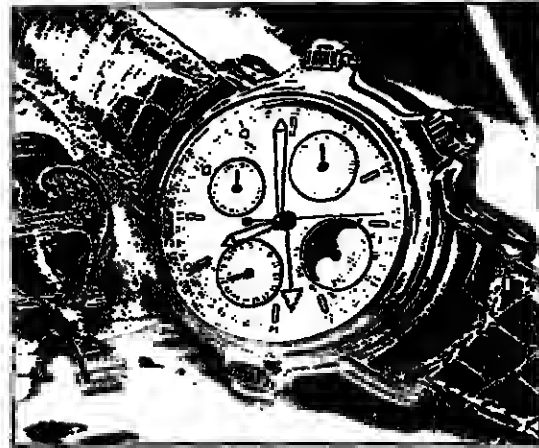
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Maiden's welcome is fit for heroines

By BARRY PICKTHALL

TRACY Edwards and her hungry, all-women crew aboard Maiden, the British Whitbread Round the World Race yacht, received a tumultuous welcome yesterday when they returned to Southampton at the end of their 33,000-mile voyage.

The welcome certainly rivalled that given to Peter Blake's New Zealand winner, Steinlager 2, which led the 22-strong fleet home a week ago - and to the thousands lining the harbour walls of Ocean Village, they were winners.

Edwards and her crew, deserve high praise, not so much for becoming the first all-women crew to complete a circumnavigation, but for overcoming the prejudices and scepticism that almost sank their hopes before the voyage began.

Not one British company

among 300 approached was prepared to back Edwards, and it was only the last-minute support from Royal Jordanian Airlines that allowed them to compete.

Initially, her greatest aspiration was to complete the course, but during the second-longest and what ultimately became the hardest stage though the Southern ocean, the Maiden crew broke into the lead and held their class three rivals at bay until Cape Horn.

They arrived home yesterday to confound their critics, and finish second overall to Patrick Tabary's French challenger, L'Esprit de Liberté, after taking fourth place on the final 3,800 mile stage from Fort Lauderdale.

Earlier, Tabary and his crew were tipped to the finish line by the West German yacht Schlüssel von Bremen

which crept in over the tide late on Sunday night, 24 minutes ahead. The finish between Rucanor and Maiden was even closer, with just 14 minutes dividing the two at the finish after the Belgian yacht had run aground on a sand bank in the Solent.

Last night, La Poste, the smallest of the division three yachts, sailed by a team of French postal workers completed the race, winning handicap honours in their class on the final stage.

This leaves two yachts still at sea: the crippled Satqueute British Defender, which lost the top of her mast soon after the start of the leg, and With Integrity, the ageing British cruiser which has not been in radio contact since leaving Fort Lauderdale.

RESULTS: Sixth leg (Fort Lauderdale to Southampton). First division: 1, Schlüssel von Bremen, 17,000; 2, P. Tabary, 17,000; 3, Rucanor, 17,000; 4, Maiden, 17,000; 5, La Poste, 17,000; 6, With Integrity, 17,000; 7, Defender, 17,000; 8, Satqueute, 17,000; 9, La Poste, 17,000; 10, Defender, 17,000; 11, Satqueute, 17,000; 12, Rucanor, 17,000; 13, Maiden, 17,000; 14, P. Tabary, 17,000; 15, Schlüssel von Bremen, 17,000; 16, With Integrity, 17,000; 17, Defender, 17,000; 18, Satqueute, 17,000; 19, La Poste, 17,000; 20, Rucanor, 17,000; 21, Maiden, 17,000; 22, P. Tabary, 17,000; 23, Schlüssel von Bremen, 17,000; 24, With Integrity, 17,000; 25, Defender, 17,000; 26, Satqueute, 17,000; 27, La Poste, 17,000; 28, Rucanor, 17,000; 29, Maiden, 17,000; 30, P. Tabary, 17,000.

Compiled by British Telecom.

Morris and his merry men flirting with success

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOR too many years now the mention of Derby, in cricket circles, has been a cue for eyes to glaze over and previous engagements to be suddenly recalled. It has been seen as a dowdy, downbeat and disheartening place. Not any more.

This morning, the old Racecourse Ground, unapologetically set on the flank of a dual carriageway, houses the leaders in the Britannia Assurance county championship; if only on alphabetical claims over the team from the other end of that rumbling link road, Nottinghamshire.

These two clubs, East Midlands rivals without much in the way of neighbourly goodwill, have met this bank holiday weekend. Collided, more like. A match of competitiveness, courage and no little ac-

rimony, ended yesterday in a draw, but significantly it was Nottinghamshire, champions twice in the 1980s, who were content to have saved the game.

Derbyshire have not finished in the top five since 1958. They last won the title 54 years ago, when the ancient, flaking, red brick grandstands were still witnessing pre-war horse racing. Their appearance today at the head of the table, however, may not be a fluke or a flirtation.

There was a real crowd in yesterday, the atmosphere crackling. The few wickets which fell, as French's maiden century dragged Nottinghamshire out of the mire, were greeted by full-throated cheers, not polite applause.

There is, too, much improvement in the look of the place. It no longer has the air of a fourth division

football ground, and the cricket being produced is the prompt for all progress.

Playing affairs are now in the hands of Kim Barnett and John Morris, captain and vice-captain respectively. Barnett has played for England, but never will again after choosing to winter in South Africa. Morris has never played for England, longs to do so, and almost certainly must if he maintains his current form.

Morris has made five centuries this season, including four, remarkably, at Taunton. Yesterday, he went in first, selflessly agreeing to pursue an improbable run chase, and sacrificed his wicket.

There was no sulky resentment, just a smiling acceptance of an occasional demand in a job to which he is now utterly committed. It is not always this way. "Three years

ago, I was Jack the lad," said the personable Morris. "Now I am simply a professional cricketer. The way I live my life has changed, and so has the way I bat."

"From the age of 18 people have told me I am a potential England player. It has gone on until I reached an age where it was all passing me by."

"Two winters ago, I had a long look at myself. I didn't like some of what I saw. I decided things must change, and I think the results speak for themselves. A flashy 40 used to be a label and it is hard to get rid of it."

Last summer, Morris made more runs than any other Englishman except Larkins. Dismayed at failing

to win a place on a winter Tour, he spent four months as a car salesman and then launched into a fitness and practice programme. He is fitter and fresher than ever at the start of a season, and looks as close to the complete middle-order batsman as any uncapped player in the land.

Yet, to his knowledge, no English observer has watched him.

Morris no longer lets the injustice rile him. He is to marry in September, and says he is far more relaxed about life. He is 26 years old, and has grown up. Still young enough to have a Test career, he deliberately talks instead of his responsibilities to Derbyshire and their very genuine ambitions this summer. Then he glances up and cannot resist it. "When do they pick the Test team?" he asks.

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